



CAMPAIGNERS LOSE PUB BATTLE

Report by David Cosgrove

CAMPAIGNERS have lost their fight against plans to turn a Halesowen pub into a supermarket – despite more than 650 people signing a petition in a bid to save it.

New River Rail has been granted planning permission for the development at the Hasbury Inn — on a committee chairman's casting vote.

A petition opposing the plan was signed by 674 people and submitted to Dudley Council.

Councillor Simon Phipps told the council's planning committee that residents were 'overwhelmingly against this application'.

But Tom Hallett, on behalf of New River Retail, said the pub was failing and the plans for a store run by The Co-operative Group would rejuvenate the building.

"I understand concerns have been raised by residents, but there's been a struggle to keep the pub profitable and a significant decline in the beer sold means the business is no longer viable," he said.

Mr Hallett said turning the Hagley Road pub into a supermarket would create 20 new jobs and also offer increased choice for shoppers.

However, Councillor Phipps said: "It's obvious that the last thing the community needs is another shop."

"It's important to state that the council will be setting a precedent that would say it's okay for development companies to turn our most valued community assets into convenience stores."

"What community assets will turn into convenience stores next?"

He added: "Residents are overwhelmingly against this application."

Converting

Developer New River Retail has taken over many pubs in the Black Country and set about converting them into supermarkets.

One of the committee opposed to the plans at Monday's meeting was Councillor Colin Elcock, who said: "If they open this supermarket there it's the last thing that area needs."

"There are four shops within easy walking distance of this pub and I just think it's a real shame to see a pub like the Hasbury turned into another shop."

His Conservative colleague Councillor David Vickers said: "This is a community asset, 600 people have said they don't want this and we should be listening to them."

"We're losing too many pubs," he added.

The proposals were passed on chairman Councillor Qadar Zada's deciding vote.

He said: "If all the people who signed the petition had used the Hasbury Inn we probably wouldn't be in this position."

IT'S BACK TO THE TUDORS AT HADEN OLD HALL



Haden Old Hall's Tudor characters — in costume are Ken Waterhouse, Jean Drew, Ray Drew, Helen Holliday and Mark Aston

TUDOR times were brought back to life during a history day at Haden Old Hall.

Music and dancing helped to take people back to the 16th century at the house in Cradley Heath. The hall was originally built in the late 1600s but has parts dating back to the Tudor period, and is attached to Haden Hill House Museum.

On Sunday staff and volunteers welcomed scores of people to an open afternoon where costumed characters entertained the crowds.

Visitors were able to see beautiful birds of prey in the grounds and learn more about

how they were used in Tudor times for hunting. Many of the birds which were common in Tudor times are now dwindling in numbers.

Museum services manager Jane Hanney, from Sandwell Museums Service, said: "The Old Hall isn't open to the public all the time, unlike the Victorian museum next door, so it is great on open days to see the house come alive with historic characters."

"The hall was probably built in the late 1600s but parts of it may date to the Tudor period."

"It has been heavily restored and the

Friends of Haden Hill Estate have painted the inside with some fabulous historic colours such as red and yellow ochre.

"It has transformed the look of the building."

Haden Hill House Museum will host a craft afternoon on Sunday. The tearoom will be open for afternoon tea from 2pm until 4.30pm.

Staff continue the craft theme with a peg doll making workshop on August 23, costing £1.50, and the birds of prey will make a return to the site on August 30 from 2pm.

CARAVANS

Swift action pledge over traveller camp

COUNCIL bosses say travellers who have moved onto land in Rowley Regis will be forced to leave 'as quickly as possible'.

Nine caravans pitched up on land off Angela Avenue last Friday, sparking complaints from people living nearby.

Sandwell Council has vowed to take swift action.

Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration and economy, said: "Illegal encampments will not be tolerated and we are currently going through the legal process to remove the travellers as quickly as possible."

VANDALISM

Yobs are targeting former depot site

VANDALS are trespassing on the site of a former distribution centre in Rowley Regis, spraying graffiti, drinking alcohol and setting fires.

Youths are hanging around the former Norbert Dentressangle depot in Doulton Road. The derelict site has been bought by Mar City Homes and police have been in discussions with the firm over securing it. Officers are conducting regular patrols.

More than 200 homes are to be built on the site after plans were approved.

ROAD

No safety measures despite speeders

HIGHWAYS bosses have ruled out introducing traffic-calming measures on a road where a police sting found more than half of motorists were travelling above the speed limit.

Residents and local councillors have called for action over Codsall Road in Cradley Heath, but Sandwell Council said changes are not needed as there have been no recorded 'traffic injuries' in the area over the last five years.

A police speed monitoring operation along the stretch earlier this year recorded a staggering 59 per cent of vehicles ignoring the 30mph speed limit.

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MEET THE JAMBUSTERS



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HS2 will help London, not Midlands



Green Party's Natalie Bennett

THE £50 billion HS2 project will cluster resources at London and is the 'wrong answer' for the West Midlands, according to the leader of the Green Party.

Speaking to The Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Express & Star, Natalie Bennett said the scheme's huge bill would be better spent on local infrastructure in the Black Country.

Her damning assessment comes just weeks after the region's business leaders revealed a £3.3bn vision for the HS2 that would create 52,000 jobs.

Miss Bennett said: "Those behind the scheme seemed to have missed the

fact local trains need to run from east to west, not just down to London. That is what would help build a stronger local economy."

"HS2 is the wrong answer for the West Midlands. It would be much more beneficial if the Government were to put the same amount of investment into local infrastructure, particularly in terms of encouraging people to walk and cycle, and into improving bus services."

A Midlands Growth Strategy developed by Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership seeks to secure Government funding for dozens

of connected projects. These include extending the Midland Metro from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill through Dudley town centre and introducing super-fast electric bus services linking HS2 stations to the i54 in Wolverhampton as well as Halesowen and Walsall.

But Miss Bennett is in no doubt which part of the country would benefit most from the high-speed rail line. She added: "Under the HS2 proposals 72 percent of journeys would be people travelling into London. All HS2 will achieve is an even greater focus of resources around the capital."

Taxpayers 'ripped off' by authority set-up

TAXPAYERS in the Black Country are being 'ripped off' by the set-up costs of the West Midlands Combined Authority, it has been claimed – as each borough pays the same as Birmingham.

West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge said the second city should pay more towards the £2.1 million cost instead of it being divided equally between seven councils.

But the UKIP MEP and Dudley councilor's comments have come under fire from the leader of Sandwell Council, Darren Cooper, who said the equal cost would ensure every area had an equal say.

Mr Etheridge, who represents Sedgley on Dudley Council, said the cost was being split equally between Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull — each authority budgeting £300,000.

He accused Dudley Council's Labour leadership of allowing the borough to be 'ripped off'. "Going on the results of the 2011 census, residents are having to pay more than three times the price per head as those in Birmingham," he said.

"Birmingham City Council should be paying the lion's share of the costs as they have a far greater budget.

Warning

"The poor old Dudley taxpayer is having a raw deal here. UKIP have been warning people about the pitfalls of entering into any kind of political union with Birmingham. It seems the Labour Council have fallen straight into the very first trap."

The census in 2011 put the population of Birmingham at 1,073,000, in Dudley it is 312,000.

But Councillor Cooper, who has led the Black Country's negotiations with other councils on the combined authority, which some have called a 'super council', said: "Mr Etheridge would be the first to complain if Birmingham had a greater say than each of the four Black Country boroughs.

"This is about us all being equals. If we want that equality between us, then we have to be fair to each other. If Birmingham put in more than us, there would be people in the city saying they should get the lion's share of the benefits as well."

Mayor and MP scale peak for charities



The triumphant Dudley climbers reach Bert's Peace Cairn on top of Ben Nevis, raising over £1,500

A GROUP of fundraisers, including Dudley North MP Ian Austin, have reached the summit of Ben Nevis in honour of a peace campaigner.

The walkers conquered the Britain's highest peak in memory of Bert Bissell and took the Black Country flag up with them.

The group including councillors Dave Tyler and Keiran Casey have raised hundreds of pounds for the Mayor of Dudley's charities, with Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho also on the expedition.

Mr Bissell, who died aged 96 in 1998, was a former probation officer who lived in Selborne Road, Dudley. He founded the Young Men's Bible Class at Vicar Street.

The campaigner and climber reached the summit of Ben Nevis on VJ Day in 1945 and returned many times, constructing a Peace Cairn on top of the Scottish mountain.

The group of climbers took a photograph at the cairn on Wednesday (August 5). After they reach the

summit, Mr Austin tweeted: "Mission accomplished" but admitted the team were cold and drenched after difficult weather conditions.

Following in Mr Bissell's footsteps, they have raised more than £1,500 so far. This will be shared between Councillor Waltho's chosen charities — the Hope Centre in Halesowen, The What Centre in Stourbridge, More Mascots Please in Brierley Hill, Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley and West Midlands Lupus UK.

Samaritans in plea for aid as funding running dry

A CHARITY has issued a desperate plea for support with bosses fearing it could close if it does not receive a cash injection.

Brierley Hill Samaritans needs to raise £20,000 each year just to continue running and is currently having to rely on its reserves.

The charity offers an around-the-clock support line for people who often turn to them when at their lowest ebb.

Bosses are now calling on businesses and residents to help ensure the vital service is not lost.

The branch in Albion Street takes more than 25,000 calls each year from people in crisis.

Branch chairman Graham Bristow said: "Each Samaritans branch in an independent charity and has to raise its own money to be able to function.

"We are currently looking at £20,000 a year to maintain our branch.

Listeners

"It's something we have to raise. Our volunteers act as listeners but they are also having to be out there raising money. Some companies select a charity to support for 12 months and that would be an ideal scenario for us."

A significant outlay on upgrading computers has put a further strain on the budget. The upgrade was necessary as Samaritans now keeps in contact with many people through SMS messaging and email.

Anyone interested in donating should email bhsgraham@icloud.com

Village campaign over bank closure

THE chairman of a parish council is urging people to lodge their objections to plans to close a village's bank branch.

Barclays has confirmed it will shut its branch in Worcester Road, Hagley, on November 20. This will leave a branch of Lloyds Bank and the Post Office available for banking services in the village.

Councillor Steve Colella has launched a campaign to prevent the closure and is urging customers to write to the bank in a bid to persuade them to re-think.

Barclays says the number of people using the branch had dropped during the past year and a large number of customers already use nearby branches.

Councillor Colella said: "The head office of Barclays Bank is unaware of the increase in population that Hagley will be seeing in the coming years."

Games area plan at primary school

A MULTI-USE games area will be created at a Halesowen school under new proposals. Headteacher of Tenterfields Primary School, Rhian Welsh, has submitted a planning application to Dudley Council. A decision will be made within three months.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bostin' ball raises more than £2k

MORE than £2,000 has been raised for good causes as Miss Black Country hosted her charity ball.

Jade Secker hosted a bostin' variety show which mixed live music, comedy, prize auctions with food served up for guests on Friday night at The Village Hotel in Dudley.

Black Country band The Empty Can performed, alongside comedienne Marlene, The Black Country Wench.

In total £2,133.67 was raised to be donated to the pageant's charity Beauty With a Purpose which helps disadvantaged children.

More mortgage applications made

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society has reported a 10 per cent rise in mortgage applications during the first half of this year.

Between January and June, the society which also has branches in Sedgley and Bilston processed £38.29 million of mortgage applications. The amount was up from £33.72m for the same period last year.

Richard Newton, the Tipton's chief executive, said: "Interest rates remain at a historical low level and people are taking advantage of the competitive rates on offer."

Landmark cannon suddenly removed

THE cannon in front of Brierley Hill War Memorial has been removed without warning.

The ornamental cannon took pride of place on Church Hill. Residents feared it had been stolen but it has actually been removed by Dudley Council, which is securing the site due to landslip concerns.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said the ornamental cannon will be returned in October after restoration work to the wall and bank.

Dark Ages theme for village's carnival day

A DARK Ages re-enactment group will be joining in the fun at a revived village carnival.

Dormston Carnival is being held on Saturday on the fields of Dormston School, in Sedgley.

Warriors will be demonstrating Dark Ages combat and also craft skills at the event off Mill Bank, from 11am to 5pm.

The Black Country Living Museum Transport Group will also be displaying vehicles made in the region.

Watches are stolen

THREE watches and a collection of cuff links were stolen from a home in Worcester Road, Clent, near Stourbridge.

Thieves broke in between at around 12.15pm on Wednesday, August 5, at the rear of the property setting off an alarm. Call West Mercia Police on 101.

Police cuts mean more crime, says trade boss

CRIME will increase in the Black Country if community police officers are taken off the streets, warns a business leader.

Up to 2,500 officers and civilian staff are set to lose their jobs in swingeing West Midlands Police cuts. The move is expected to hit community policing hardest, with 650 PCSOs set to go.

Halesowen Chamber of Trade fear the town could be in the firing line with reported crime lower than other areas.

But chairman Wayne Edwards believes the figures could be distorted due to traders being put off reporting crime.

He said: "You have to ring 101 for a non-emergency now and there can be a time delay. I rang 101 and didn't get a call back for three or four days."

"What is happening is traders are not reporting crime because they don't think it is worth it, they can't hold the suspect."

"It is going to deteriorate even more over the next few months, the presence of PCSOs is going to be lost."

Halesowen is currently covered by two shifts each made up of two officers and three PCSOs, but this is expected to be reduced.

Mr Edwards is set to meet with police chiefs to discuss his concerns that cuts in officer numbers will result in more crime.

"Crime is going to increase," he added. "We might not have the highest reported crime but people are not reporting it."

Problem parking on a busy street

PARKING restrictions may be brought in to solve issues with a clogged street near Stourbridge Junction train station.

People living in Chawn Park Drive complain of problems caused by commuters parking near the busy station.

Extra police patrols have been carried out in the road following complaints about large numbers of cars causing congestion at peak times.

Pedmore and Stourbridge East neighbourhood officer Sergeant Andy Holder said the residents have urged the authorities to take action.

He said: "The highways department at Dudley Council have been made aware and are currently looking into this with a view to possibly putting in some parking restrictions."

School gets two new classrooms

TWO classrooms will be built at a Dudley primary school creating 105 new pupil places. Priory Primary, in Limes Road, has a current capacity of 525 pupils but the new development will mean this is increased to 630.

Man on legal high hit pregnant partner

A MAN who hit his pregnant partner and smashed a hole into a door at their Dudley home after taking a legal high has been jailed for 11 months.

Ricky Handy, aged 26, had also been drinking when the argument with his former girlfriend turned ugly.

Miss Elizabeth Power, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Handy admitted assault occasioning bodily harm and two offences of criminal damage.

He admitted assaulting Sarah Ralston on a basis that at the time 'he was drunk and took a legal high'.

"He did not intend to hurt her, but accepts his behaviour was reckless," Miss Power said. "They

had been in a three-year relationship. At the time they had an 18-month-old child and his partner was pregnant. She rents her home from the defendant's mother and he would stay over approximately one night a week. She thought he was not behaving like himself and they had money issues."

She said that Handy, of Baptist End Road, Netherton, was verbally abusive, saying that he was 'sick of her' and that he wanted her to leave.

He went to a shop in Brierley Hill and spent £15 on a legal high and had alcohol. When he returned he threw a missile at his girlfriend's £3,000 TV set, breaking the screen. He picked up a plastic bag containing a metal pole which he threw at her, causing her eyebrow to bleed, and grabbed her by the throat.

Days later Miss Ralston was woken by the sound of something being smashed. It was a door panel. She called the police and Handy was arrested.

Mr Graham Russell, defending, said Handy had taken a legal high known as Lotus.

A friend, Wayne Neal, had described how he saw a recent change in Handy caused by him taking legal highs and drinking.

For assault Handy was jailed for 10 months, for damaging the TV two months concurrent, for smashing the door he was jailed for one month to run consecutively.

Judge John Warner said: "Your offending is aggravated by the fact that a child was present and you were in drink and had taken drugs."

Thousands at schools containing asbestos

THOUSANDS of children in the Black Country are attending schools that still have asbestos in their structures.

Some 86 per cent of schools still contain the substance, which can cause health problems if disturbed. A total of 101 of Dudley's 107 schools have asbestos.

The figure is 69 out of 76 schools in Wolverhampton and 216 of Worcestershire's 243. The number of schools is not available for Sandwell but figures show that 46,880 pupils in Sandwell attend schools where asbestos is present.

There overall figure is 344,886 pupils in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire attending schools where there is asbestos.

Asbestos was banned as a building material in 1999 but there is no legal requirement to remove it - and councils insist children are not at risk.

If a person is exposed to asbestos dust during building work it can lead to serious health problems including mesothelioma, a type of cancer.

Funding

Campaigners say the Government should provide funding for schools to get rid of asbestos.

Councillor Ian Cooper, Dudley's children's services chief, said: "Any major programme of complete asbestos removal in our schools would be extremely costly as well as being disruptive to teaching and learning."

"Whilst we understand people's concerns about asbestos, particularly in schools, we would reassure them that we have a robust management programme for regulation and control. It is deemed to be safe if it is in an undamaged condition."

"There is also a strict policy which is followed when any building work is carried out at schools. An asbestos survey is carried out before any work is undertaken to ensure the safety of children and staff."

Asbestos in Schools campaign leader Michael Lees's wife Gina was exposed to asbestos while working as a nursery teacher and died of mesothelioma at the age of 51.

The 67-year-old, from Devon, said: "We accept removing asbestos from all schools can only be done over a long period."

"We believe the Government should adopt long-term policies to eventually eradicate all asbestos from schools."

Labour Club closes after 93 years



Councillors Julie Webb and Ann Shackleton outside Cradley Heath Labour Club, which has closed down

CRADLEY Heath Labour Club has been closed after more than 90 years after bosses admitted they could no longer afford to keep it running.

The Grangers Lane venue was regularly packed with drinkers in years gone by but has struggled in recent times. Members were told the club could no longer afford to keep running.

The building, which is owned by the committee which runs it,

has been put up for sale with a property developer having already shown interest.

The labour club opened in 1922. Membership reached its peak during the 1960s but the venue remained popular into the 1990s.

Club secretary Albert Gough said: "It has been down to a lack of membership and attendance. We have just run out of money, with our debts around £75,000. The building has been put up for

sale but I do not know what will happen with it in the future."

"It is a very sad time for those people who have been regulars for some years. In the end there were just 56 paid members, in the club's heyday there were a few hundred."

Cradley Heath councillor Julie Webb said: "It has served the community well. I just hope whoever buys the property can retain its use as a club."

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A WOMAN in Cambridge has proudly displayed her courgette which is seven feet long. Where is Frankie Howard when you need him?

REMEMBER the Olympic legacy? That was the theory that we Brits, fired by the example of the 2012 London Olympics, would take up running, jumping and organised sports and become a nation of sleek, snake-hipped athletes. As you may have noticed, it hasn't happened. This is probably because the real lesson of the Olympics was how much fun it is to slob out on the sofa for a fortnight with burgers and fizzy drinks, watching other people going purple in the quest for gold. The real beneficiaries of the 2012 Games were the sponsors, including the burger and cola firms. Sport Minister Tracey Crouch has announced a new consultation on the legacy, declaring: "Sport has such a positive impact on people's lives and I want to embed participation into this nation's DNA." Good luck but I fear hamburgers are already embedded.



FAREWELL, Cilla Black, gone far too early. Those of us of a certain age will remember her not as the motherly trouserer of Blind Date but as the bewitching, fragile singer of the 1960s who could Step Inside Love and make your heart gasp. Part of that wonderful, exciting, hopeful, innocent world of a truly amazing decade is no more. Back in the Sixties it took us a while to tune in to the Liverpool accents. I remember being puzzled by Cilla's line which went: "Where the curs of the days will be carried away by the smile on your face." Where were these curs being carried to?

SO, after the collapse of Kids Company, how many voluntary organisations will be available to take over some of its work? The answer may surprise you. Britain has about 60,000 children's charities. Should this make us feel terribly proud or deeply ashamed?

A READER says his local college is offering English for Speakers of Other Languages under the snappy acronym ESOL. He asks, what initials would they use if the language was Arabic?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Mother blames son's death on legal highs

A MOTHER has issued a stark warning about the dangers of legal highs, saying they led to her son's suicide.

Benjamin Westwood, known as Ashley, killed himself at his Amblecote home in May, aged 49.

Mr Westwood had started taking legal highs in the year prior to his death and these had 'changed his personality' dramatically, his mother Jacqueline Westwood told Black Country Coroners Court.

by David Cosgrove

He became depressed and self-harmed, and this led to several stays in hospital.

Assistant coroner Kally Cheema recorded a verdict of suicide after his mother found Mr Westwood hanged at his home in Perivale Way on May 27.

After the hearing, Mrs Westwood said: "Legal highs are so easy to get hold of and Ashley had taken them for the last six to 12 months. You can just go on the internet and get them delivered to your door - it's that easy."

"Taking those drugs changed his personality and I think that was a big contributing factor to what happened."

Paranoid

"He became paranoid and I think they would've been a large part of that."

After recording her verdict, Miss Cheema said: "It's very tragic for a mother to find her son in the circumstances that you did. I'm very sorry that's something you had to experience."

"It's clear to me from

the evidence that it was Mr Westwood's intention to take his life. The only conclusion I can record is one of suicide."

Mrs Westwood also said she repeatedly raised concerns about her son's well-being but was not listened to.

She said the mental health system had failed Ashley, and asked: "Why didn't anybody do anything?"

Mr Westwood, who was trained as a chef, hairdresser and chiropodist, spent time in hospital voluntarily in January. However, he told medical staff that he was not feeling suicidal and they had no powers to force him to stay in the hospital. He was due to receive care at home but rejected a number of opportunities.

She said his personality altered in January but before then: "He was helpful, a bundle of laughs and was bright and cheerful. Everybody misses him dreadfully."

Police smash fuel card scam



An image of a man police want to speak to about fuel fraud

A FUEL card cloning scam centred on a Halesowen garage saw £30,000 worth of petrol and diesel stolen across Birmingham.

One person has been sentenced for his part and a CCTV image of another suspect has been released.

Garage cashier Khaled Abdulkawi cloned at least 46 cards at the Esso Falcon service station in Bromsgrove Road and passed them to accomplices, who topped up their tanks at the expense of companies signed up to the Allstar fuel card scheme.

Abdulkawi, aged 26, of Dorothy Adams Close, Cradley Heath, copied the cards between November 2013 and May 2014 before accomplices used them.

He admitted three counts of fraud and was given an 18-month jail term suspended for two years, and ordered to carry out 300 hours of unpaid community work, at Birmingham Crown Court on July 23.

A 38-year-old man was arrested and bailed pending inquiries.

Police have also released an image of a man they want to speak to. Call the Economic Crime Unit on 101, or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Bosses are backing combined authority

BUSINESS leaders from three chambers of commerce have backed plans to create a combined authority for the West Midlands.

Chief executives of chambers in the Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire and Greater Birmingham said they were supporting the seven metropolitan council leaders in wanting to set up the West Midlands Combined Authority.

They endorsed it in a letter ahead of a conference in Birmingham where council leaders and business figures will discuss the authority, dubbed a 'super-council' by some, taking on powers over regeneration, skills and transport from the Government.

It takes place at the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce offices in Edgbaston on Wednesday, August 19.

The chambers' letter, signed by Margaret Corneby from the Black Country, Louise Bennett for Coventry and Warwickshire and Paul Faulkner for Greater Birmingham, said the council leaders had provided 'a powerful basis for a successful combined authority'.

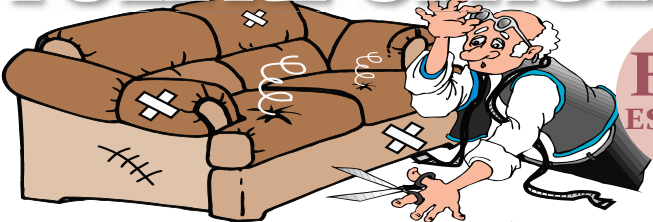
It added: "We would now like to add formally the weight of the three leading business support organisations in the area, representing the private enterprise that will be vital to the success of combined authority."

"Businesses in our regions see this as a tremendous opportunity."

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Warning made on imported puppy sales

PUPPIES illegally imported from Poland have been sold in the Black Country by 'unscrupulous' dealers.

The French Bulldog pups, which can sell for £2,000 each, may not have been properly vaccinated and officials are trying to find them.

The RSCPA has urged people to be vigilant, saying there is no guarantee about the health of dogs. Environmental health officers in Sandwell are now trying to trace up to 15 puppies that are believed to have been illegally imported. The council says the dogs were sold from an address in Tividale.

Anybody who has bought a puppy from the area, which was supplied with a pet passport from Poland, is advised to contact environmental health officials.

Puppies can only be imported legally once they are 15 weeks old, which gives time to have necessary vaccinations in their country of origin.

They must be microchipped and accompanied by a matching passport. Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, said: "Falsified passports are being used by unscrupulous importers. If you are not confident that the puppy you are interested in buying matches the details in the passport, particularly if the puppy seems to be younger, then you should contact your vet or the council for further advice."

Boot camp folk fit for helping hospice

A CHARITY keep-fit boot camp is being held to raise funds for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

WLH Fitness is organising the event at Thorns Community College, Quarry Bank, on Sunday, September 13, from 10am, is open to all ages and costs £5 to join in the fun. Call 07900 974956.

Landlords now facing fines for illegal immigrant tenants

Firm celebrates 30 years in business



Sophia Powell (centre) with staff at Powell Office Style in Rowley Regis, which has marked its 30th year in business

A FAMILY-RUN office equipment firm has marked its 30th anniversary.

Powell Office Style in Rowley Regis hosted an open day to celebrate for its customers, suppliers, business partners and friends.

There was food, drinks, raffle prizes, goodie bags and a host of suppliers showcasing their latest products.

Sophia Powell, managing director, said: "It was a fabulous day and a perfect opportunity for our customers to

meet the amazing team here at Powell's.

"We employ local people who have all contributed to the continued success of the business."

Schools

In the past 30 years, Powell's has supplied more than £3 million worth of furniture to fit out NHS offices, schools and colleges plus local firms.

This year alone they have sold enough paper to cover the West Bromwich Albion, Wolves, Walsall, Aston Villa and Birmingham City football pitches combined — and enough desks to build a wall around Dudley.

Eighteen people work for Powell Office Style, which is based in Station Road.

Mrs Powell said the business was going from 'strength to strength'.

PRIVATE landlords in the Black Country are the first to face £3,000 fines if they do not keep strict controls on immigrants renting homes.

Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley, along with Birmingham, are part of a pilot scheme that sees landlords face the threat of legal action if they let a property to someone who has no right to be in Britain.

If they fail to conduct checks they already face fines of £1,000 per tenant and £80 per lodger, rising to £3,000 and £500 for repeated offences. The new scheme will also introduce a five-year prison term for persistent offenders.

There are warnings that the Government has not given landlords and letting agents enough information, as they plan to roll out measures to allow them to end tenancies for anyone who entered the country illegally or whose right to stay has expired.

Evaluation

It came as French police figures suggested as many as seven in 10 migrants in Calais may be reaching the UK.

The Home Office the pilot scheme in the Black Country was 'currently the subject of an evaluation which will be published in due course'.

Landlords say they fear they are being made to act as border guards.

Lyndon Whitehouse, of Wednesday-based L&A Lettings, said: "It sounds as though we are meant to become like border guards and do the Government's job for it. We already have the embarrassment of having to check the immigration status of people who are obviously born and bred here."

Concern over less lending for business

A SHARP contraction in business lending, revealed by new figures from the Bank of England, is a cause for concern say Black Country business leaders.

Johnathan Dudley, managing partner and head of manufacturing business at Crowe Clark Whitehill and chairman of the Alliance for the Black Country, said: "Clearly there is a growth in confidence in business and a willingness to do deals but after the problems of a few years ago there appears to be a reluctance of business to borrow from banks, who businesses perceive require too much in return."

"Although this gap has been partly filled by challenger lenders and alternative finance sources, the growing reluctance to engage with banks will continue to stifle investment and growth. Government schemes such as Funding for Lending and Enterprise Finance Guarantee haven't worked."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Charitable thoughts in light of collapse

HAVING seen her mug all over the place this week, it had been troubling me who Camila Batmanghelidjh really was.

My initial thought was she looked like a kind of radioactive Ena Sharples. But then



Camila Batmanghelidjh



The duchess, Lizzie Wiggins

been asking, is what constitutes a charity these days?

It used to be simple enough, somebody might rattle a tin in the high street, or maybe sell you a couple of raffle tickets, and the money went directly to the poor or the sick.

But these days we have charities that receive millions upon millions of pounds from the public purse, employing hundreds of people. The chief executive is paid £90,000 a year, and appears as a guest on Question Time. Few people outside the Westminster bubble really know what these organisations do, but we are assured by the trustees, who are drawn from the great and the good, that their work is vital.

Well I'm sorry, but that doesn't sound like a charity to me. That sounds suspiciously like a quango.

IN what sounded like a belated April Fool, Leicestershire Police admitted to only investigating attempted burglaries where the target is a house with an even number. Of course, those responsible for the idea say it is all about resources and cutbacks.

Well here's another idea. Why don't they have a new policy of only issuing parking tickets to blue, white or green cars, and turn a blind eye to minor infringements by the drivers of red, grey or silver ones? Or why not ignore half of all speeding offences by, say, letting off drivers of saloon and estate cars?

And what would be the likelihood of any of that happening? Pretty close to zero. The powers that be are always very selective when it comes to police cutbacks.

NOT my joke, but I think it deserves a wider audience. A cricket commentator telephones the Australian dressing room, and asks to speak to Michael Clarke.

"He's just gone out to bat," replies the kit man, who picks up the phone.

"No worries," replies the journalist. "I'll hold."



Control room operator Steve Mason seen at work in Quinton



Emergency planning officer Frank Bird in the control room



Road team manager Felicity Joyce with a standard patrol vehicle

Meet the motorway team of jambusters

ROB COX meets the men and women who keep the West Midlands on the move 24/7

FROM a single nerve centre off the M5, a dedicated team of Highways England operators monitor more than 1,600 miles of road.

It is a 24/7 undertaking, supported by 140 roadside officers, with the sole purpose of keeping the Midlands' roads free of congestion.

Walking into the bustling control centre, located at Quinton Business Park, you could be forgiven for thinking you had accidentally entered mission control at NASA.

A huge television display spans the entire of the front wall while rows of operators, complete with headsets, attempt to assess the data it presents.

In the centre is a map of the Midlands' motorways stretching from Junction 16 of the M6 at Stoke down as far as Strensham Services off the M5, shortly before it meets the M50.

Footage

It also shows the main A-roads running west towards the Welsh border and spans as far east as Banbury in Oxfordshire.

In total the control centre monitors 800 miles of motorway, including the M6, M5 and M54, and 860 miles of A-road including the A5, A38 and A50.

Around the central map live footage is displayed from a selection of more than 700 cameras located across this busy network or roads.

To help the operators, of which there are 60 working across six shifts, the display offers other sources of information. On the left of the imposing screen are images from a 24-hour news service, Sky or BBC, which can be the first to alert Highways England to a crash.

Below that are wind speed readings which are particularly important for the Midlands' roads as the region has the highest concentration of elevated motorways in the UK.



Mission control — the hi-tech control room at Highways England at Quinton Business Park

Anything above 25mph can seriously affect high-sided vehicles. Anything above 20mph and 'High Wind - Slow Down' is automatically displayed on the gantries.

And to the far right of the screen is information on the region's two sections of 'smart motorway' which run along parts of the M6 and M42.

This technology uses variable speed limits displayed above the carriageway and allows drivers to use the hard shoulder during peak times.

Emergency planning officer Frank Bird explains: "The main way we achieve this is through a series of copper loops located under the motorway which detect changes in the speed of traffic.

"When the traffic slows down the technology in the road sends a message to the overhead gantries to state 'queue caution' or 'slow

down' The next step then will be to check the nearest available camera on the network to see if we can see the incident.

"If, for example, a car has been flipped upside down over one of the loops, the technology can detect the car is not moving and sent us an automated signal. We would then kick into overdrive and start closing the motorway.

"We will quickly get a response car out there which can deal with matters like oil spills and start putting cones out."

In the case of a serious crash, where there is the need to close the motorway entirely, the focus of the control centre staff is on doing so as quickly as possible. The aim is to minimise the number of vehicles which are then stranded between where the accident took place and where the motorway has been closed.

Mr Bird, added: "On some occasions the nature of the incident allows us to let motorists

slowly drive past in the correct direction. But if the incident is potentially a fatal one it is very unlikely we could do that as the scene will need to be preserved for the corner's investigations. In that case we need to turn the traffic around and send them back to the junction behind.

"As a general rule we work to the estimation a mile of traffic takes about an hour to release, so getting the motorway shut quickly in the first instance is crucial."

Smart motorways are perhaps the biggest tool at the control centre's disposal when it comes to reducing congestion. But how does slowing drivers down to 50mph speed up their journey?

"If you slow people down to 50mph it might feel sluggish, but there is an improvement in journey time reliability," said Mr Bird. "Otherwise at busy times people go at 70mph and have to brake very sharply and that is when you get a crash."

Ultimately all the work by Highways England, particularly that from its control centre, is an effort to keep drivers safe.

Listening to Mr Bird it is clear that staff at the control centre can get frustrated at the reasons some accidents take place in the first place.

With ever-increasing numbers of people having a smart mobile phone, there has been a big campaign to alert drivers to the dangers of using the devices while behind the wheel.

Selfies

Taking 'selfies' while driving has even been blamed for a peak in crashes on the UK's roads. There are other causes of accidents too.

Mr Bird said: "It is amazing how many times there is a crash on one side of the road and you see many cars on the other side skidding and breaking and then you hear a smash. It is the 'rubberneckers' who are busy watching what the emergency crews and ourselves are doing, not what is in front of them. Now we can put up big blue screens so drivers travelling in the other direction cannot see what has happened."

With more than 30 million cars licensed to be on the road in the UK, Highways England certainly have their work cut out to keep the traffic flowing.

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Call to save an old school building

AN application has been made to demolish another distinct historical building in Dudley to make way for housing.

The threat this time is to the Gilbert Claughton Building, Blowers Green Road. Built in 1904, primarily as a school, it has in later years been used as council administrative offices and training facilities.

This is a substantial, well-detailed, fine example of a school building of the period, contributing significantly to the appearance of the area. Aren't there enough wastelands/brownfield sites to build on? I can name several where development could only enhance

the landscape instead of destroying another heritage asset.

Why not develop the site itself into homes which would make unique dwelling places instead of the box type properties we see increasingly on new housing estates.

Come on you Old Claughtonians, surely this building is worth saving. Make your objections known by e-mail to faisal.ahia@dudley.gov.uk or write to Dudley MBC Planning Dept. Plans can be viewed online. The planning reference is P15/08

L WILLETT
Dudley

Sacred stage could play a key role

I BELIEVE that saving the Hippodrome is something many local people seriously care about. The Hippodrome should be a major link between the zoo and the Black Country Museum.

The stage at the Hippodrome is sacred, with entertainers like Laurel and Hardy along with many other famous people performing there in years gone by.

The Hippodrome could be sub-divided so as to keep the stage and maybe the first 20 rows of seats. This is what many theatres in American theme parks have done. The rest of the theatre could then be franchised off, cafe, heritage centre, etc.

'The Zoo - The Hippodrome - Black Country Museum - Canal Trips Experience' would complete a superb day out.

I believe that this package would be an excellent opportunity to extend tourism in Dudley. If we are to attract a greater volume of visitors to the area, I believe we would need to reach out.

We could all benefit from that couldn't we?

G OAKLEY
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

We should look after our own people first

WHEN you hear the dreadful conditions that some of the immigrants are fleeing from you cannot help but feel for them. If you could go from poverty like they have lived in to what must seem like a life of luxury then you would probably do the same.

But we can only help so many and we have to make a stand. They have to come through the proper channels and have a job to come to.

Our benefit system is not a bottomless purse and no matter how hard it may be to turn away starving people with children and no homes, we have to put our own first.

Imagine you have a small income and a modest home and you are asked to feed and house a large group of people in your home. They will contribute nothing

and you must do this at the expense of your family. You couldn't do it and you wouldn't do it.

What this country is on a much bigger scale but the same situation, we are putting looking after them before our own.

I have just read that an old people's home was closed recently because it needed money spent on it. Elderly people heartbroken because they did not want to move, local residents fought to keep it open to no avail. Now they are opening it up again to house immigrants. You couldn't make it up!

We have to close the purse and say no to anyone who does not have a job to come to — no benefits and no free housing.

J JAMES
Worsley

Ring, ring, ring and ride

REGARDING reports on the declining use of Ring and Ride.

I have a 90-year-old neighbour who is almost blind and, due to a chest condition, is unable to use public transport. So she does not go out unless she is able to book Ring and Ride.

Since the change over in March it is terrible to get through to them.

She loves to go into Dudley on a Tuesday but rarely can as they say there are no journeys available.

Sometimes on a Friday when she pesters them, she can get to Merry Hill with very little shopping time.

She doesn't mind paying the £1 journey just to get out some days but sometimes when I go with her she is in such a distressed state because of Ring and Ride.

I have rung Head Office many a times and brought it up at the community meetings — surely it can be organised better for these people to get out.

R PLAISTER
Dudley

A 'thank you' to firefighters

COULD we please, through your paper, say a big thank you to Stourbridge Fire Brigade?

I phoned to ask them if they could advise us about safety in the home. They came the very next day, even though they had just attended a fire.

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A typical snowy scene in Hollies Drive, Wednesbury during the winter of 1978



Wolverhampton, from The Rock in Tettenhall, in the 1980s



Mr Turner's favourite image, Ocker Hill, with the now-demolished power station visible



Bustling shoppers seen at Wednesbury town centre



Sid Turner, with a picture of two girls in the Walsall Festival in 1975, which is being exhibited in Bilston

Black Country past brought to life with Sid's pictures at an exhibition

MEMORY LANE

By Adam Burling

CLUTCHING a second-hand camera and a small bag of belongings, Sid Turner left behind his home city of Liverpool in 1974 to start a new life in the Black Country.

He had signed up to train as a teacher at the old West Midlands College in Walsall – and quickly became fascinated by the area's industrial landscape and heritage.

Mr Turner went on to teach in a string of local schools, and spent his spare time taking photos of all aspects of Black Country life. Now he has collected the images and is displaying them across the region.

His exhibition, 'Ghosts' at Bilston Craft Gallery, has attracted hundreds of people and has been particularly popular among the older generations who recognised landmarks that have long since been demolished.

The 53-year-old was inspired to display the highlights from his collection of thou-



Man and boy – a stunning shot of Walsall Market in the mid 1970s

sands of photos after realising how much the area had changed in recent years. And though he accepts there have been some positive developments, he feels the overall impact of changes in the Black Country has been negative.

And he was struck by just how nostalgic people have been when they see his images.

He said: "When we look at old photographs, parents, friends, lovers look back at us, frozen forever in time. It has been quite an emotional experience for a lot of people."

Mr Turner moved to the Black Country when he started dating a woman from Chucky in Walsall while he was a member of Liverpool Diving Club. And, apart from



Sid Turner as a student in the mid-1970s, when he always had his camera with him

the odd spell abroad, he has stayed in the area ever since and now lives in Wednesbury.

Though photography has been one of his main interests, he has also turned his hand to stone masonry, silver work, ceramic art and even clock-making.

After being made redundant from his job as a stonemason, he turned to teaching.

As he had qualifications in both art and design, and chemistry and physics, Mr Turner ended up teaching science at schools including Darlaston and Willenhall comprehensives and Manor Farm.

But throughout his career he has never stopped taking photos of urban scenes. He

now works as a surveyor for Birmingham City Council and at one point tried to survive as a professional artist.

Mr Turner is still taking photos every day in between his day job and a project he is running at Birmingham University looking at how metal can be extracted from scrap computers.

His ceramic work has been exhibited in galleries in France and Prague, as well as the Wedgwood gallery in Stoke.

In 2002 he lived in China for a year, where a friend had already set up a new life, and started a clock-making business.

But within a year he had returned to the Black Country, where he says his heart lies. Mr Turner's love of photography started when, as a five-year-old, he used his father's old Brownie box camera to capture images of birds in the garden.

He joined Liverpool Photography Society during his teens but always focused on rural landscapes.

He said: "I wish I had taken some more of Liverpool in the 1960s and Beatlemania as they might have been worth a few bob now, but I was trying to do more artistic shots."

When he arrived in the Black Country, though, he noticed how the towns and communities were defined by factories and steel plants.

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Charity marks move with Mary's award



Home-Start Dudley Chairwoman Mary Turner with her service award and colleagues outside the charity's new base

A CHARITY boss was all smiles after she picked up an award for her long-service working at an organisation that helps families.

Previously, they shared a building with children's charity Barnardo's but have now moved in with Age UK Dudley.

Home-Start Dudley provides support to families who have children under five across the Dudley borough. The charity also helps families with disabled children, parents who have multiple births and those that may face difficulty with parenting.

Mrs Turner said: "It's been a good 20 years because we're all so committed to providing a good service to all of our referrals. The chief executive of Home-Start UK presented the award at the end of a three day training event and it was a complete surprise, I had no idea."

"He said he was going to embarrass someone and then it turned out to be me."

The 73-year-old added: "It's a wonderful service because we are able to go into the family home and support them with what they feel needs."

"But we're continually looking for volunteers that can help us raise money so we can provide support to all of the people that we need to."

She was presented with a framed certificate and floral bouquet.

Mary Turner has worked at Home-Start Dudley for 20 years and her hard work was recognised at a three-day training event. She was a founding member of the family support charity and continues to work for the organisation as chairwoman.

The award comes shortly after the Dudley team moved from their old offices at Dudley Court North to a new base on The Waterfront at Brierley Hill.

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Ruth gives Lowe down on designer

Grange E TG

CHAIRMAN Hazel Smith presided over the meeting held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on July 7 and gave a very warm welcome to all members and visitors.

She also welcomed two visitors from West Midlands Federation, chairman Margaret Tew and secretary Hazel Butt.

Secretary Jean Williams reported that the annual quiz held at Stourbridge Football Club was a successful evening with prizes presented to Sedgley (E) guild who were the winners with 83 points and Kingswinford Guild who came second with 72 points. Jean was given a vote of thanks on behalf of members by Federation Chairman Margaret Tew for organising the event.

Chris Holton said that the copper collection and items for the food bank were still going well.

Marlene O'Hanlon informed members about the ongoing collection for the shoe boxes. She will be collecting small toys for boys or girls at the meeting in September.

Speaker Ruth Lowe gave a very interesting talk about Mary Quant. She brought along a selection of items that Mary had designed, not just clothing but items of jewellery and make up. She held everyone's attention during her talk and the evening was enjoyed by all. A vote of thanks was given by the chairman on behalf of the members.

The next meeting will be held at Grange Court on September 1 when the Harvest supper will be served.

Speaker leaves a lot to think about

Fiona is named as most inspirational

THE winner of the competition to find the Midland Chase Inspirational Woman 2015 has been announced.

A panel of five judges made the decision and the announcement was made at the Region AGM at the Chase Golf Club, Cannock.

Eleven clubs each nominated a woman who they felt fulfilled that title and, following presentations, Fiona Ford was named as the winner.

Fiona was nominated by SI Newcastle. Her own experience with hair loss following chemotherapy inspired her to set up a bespoke service for wig fitting in the Stoke area. She now has a salon called 'Fresh Hair' housed in the Royal Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.

Midland Chase Region President Carol Bailey,

Midland Chase Soroptimists

a member of SI Wolverhampton, presented Fiona with a Royal Brierley crystal inscribed bowl and vouchers worth £150.

Fiona said how humbled and honoured she felt to have been nominated, especially when she met the other nominees – and said that she now felt overwhelmed and couldn't quite believe that she had been chosen for the title.

Fiona went on to commend Soroptimists for all the work they do to educate, empower and enable women and girls throughout the world.

For more information about SI Midland Chase visit the website www.sigbi.org/midland-chase

Quarry Bank E TWG

THERE were 24 members present at the July meeting of Quarry Bank TG. They were welcomed by Mrs Vera Raybould who was in the chair.

As always the meeting began with the reading and signing of last month's minutes, also the treasurer's report was given. Mrs Raybould gave information from her recent federation visit.

The art and crafts exhibition went very well – all in any way concerned were thanked.

A proposed art and craft group is to be held in the near future. An inaugural meeting will be held at Norton.

Social secretary Margaret Writtle gave information regarding a proposed visit to the National Memorial Arboretum. This hopefully, to be on September 22, but in order to go ahead there would need to be sufficient people interested to make the visit viable.

Speaker was Ann Welch who is head of clinic Action Heart, a most knowledgeable lady, who gave much to think about. On August 18, Pat Green will talk about 'Memories of Gran'.

Tea party in aid of Macmillan

NO business took place at the July meeting as this took the form of a summer tea party to raise money for Macmillan nurses.

The committee had organised a delicious tea and 47 members sat down to enjoy it. Quite a few members apologised for non-attendance due to holidays, etc, so the total raised will be announced at the next meeting.

After the meal there was an extensive

Wollaston 'E' TWG

raffle and many members went home with prizes.

Proceedings concluded with a closely fought beetle drive.

The next meeting is on September 8 at 7.30pm at St James Church Hall, Wollaston. Speaker will be Ruth Lowe on the life and business of Mary Quant.

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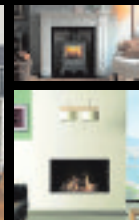
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Last concert for an iconic music venue

ICONIC Dudley music venue The Kingfisher, which has hosted live entertainment for almost 50 years, has staged its final gig.

The club at Wall Heath has hosted many famous names over the years from the music and comedy scenes, including in the 1960s Jimi Hendrix and even an early line-up of The Beatles.

As a cabaret venue it attracted Bob Monkhouse, Frank Carson and Bernard Manning.

But a lack of customers in recent years has forced the current owners to sell the Kidderminster Road bar, club and restaurant. The country club, hotel and gym at the site are not affected by the sale.

The venue bowed out with a 1980s-themed party when Born In The Eighties took to the stage. Ten staff have been made redundant.

Director David Facer, who took over the running of the venue in May 2013, said it had been a difficult decision to put it on the market. New owners will turn the club into a bigger restaurant.

Hospitals have spent £4.4m on agency staff in three months

Saxy start for arts festival



A musical highpoint — saxophonist Alvin Davis in action in Smethwick

HE was blowing in the wind this week — renowned saxophonist Alvin Davis launched an arts festival 16 storeys up, serenading the streets of Sandwell below.

With the help of community regeneration specialist Keepmoat the unusual opening ceremony from the jazz musician took place in Smethwick to kick off Sandwell Arts Festival.

The festival, which is in its sixth year, kicked off in style as the musician played for the local community from 16 storeys above ground on a mast climber.

The site chosen for the launch

of the festival was the £11million Sandwell Council regeneration scheme on three tower blocks which is being delivered by Keepmoat.

The rendition of Truly Yours marked the beginning of the festival, which runs through to August 22, with activities such as live music, poetry and art displays.

The festival also involves Sandwell Arts Cafe, which has a year-round programme of events at Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus, formerly The Public, in New Street, West Bromwich.

Keep up to date at website www.sandwellartsfestival.com

MORE than £4 million was spent on temporary hospital staff in Sandwell and Birmingham in just three months.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust spent the sum in the first quarter of 2015.

The trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital, City Hospital and Rowley Regis Hospital, admitted the level of spending was much higher than planned.

Of the £4.4m spent, £1m was for doctors and £2.6m on nursing and care staff in the three months up to April.

The trust's finance director Tony Waite said it needed to spend the cash so it could cover absences and had struggled to fill jobs. It comes despite efforts to curb agency spending at the end of 2014.

According to a hospital report, the agency spend was 'significantly in excess of plan and not consistent with delivery of key financial targets'.

"Appropriate actions are being progressed to address this and to reduce the forward pay bill to sustainable levels," the document states.

Overspending

"Principal overspending is for health-care assistants providing enhanced care support to vulnerable patients. The trust is currently running with a social care ward staffed by agency which was budgeted for permanent staff. Spend on scientific and therapeutic staff and on management and admin is below plan."

Mr Waite added: "The trust is committed to providing safe, high-quality and cost-effective care. To ensure we achieve this, we like every other trust need to use agency staff."

"Although this is higher than anticipated, it was necessary due to the trust having some hard to fill posts, peaks in service demand and to cover temporary absence such as sickness. We are working hard to recruit staff to fill our vacancies and reduce our levels of sickness absence."

"The plan to lower our agency spend reflects that the trust sees having a fully established substantive workforce as being best and consistent with its commitment to providing safe, high quality and cost effective care."

In a report to the NHS Trust board, figures revealed the trust's total workforce of 6,833 whole-time equivalent staff members was 109 less than planned.

MEP calling for a meeting over threat to pubs

MEETINGS are being sought with pub bosses and developers as a campaigner is trying to prevent the closure of more community pubs.

Bill Etheridge, West Midlands UKIP MEP, who is also a Sedgley councillor, said the campaign to save the Seven Stars pub in Sedgley had shown people were concerned about the loss of 'cherished locals'.

Mr Etheridge has written to Greg Clark, the Communities Secretary, calling for tighter regulations to help people protect pubs.

He said: "What started locally as a fight to hold on to

the Seven Stars in Sedgley is fast becoming a national epidemic. There are many reasons why pubs fail and in such cases, a development into a retail unit often stops the loss of sometimes unique characteristic buildings."

"However, my constituents are concerned that there will be popular, family-orientated pubs included."

Mr Etheridge has written to the chief executives of pub company Punch Taverns and property developer New River, which has been buying up pub land, calling for face to face meetings.

Former college campus being put on market

A FORMER college campus which has become a target for vandals will be offered to developers.

Yobs have smashed windows and set fires at the Longlands site, once a campus for Stourbridge College.

Residents have called public meetings urging owners Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMET) and Dudley Council to take action.

Now officials from both organisations have confirmed plans to market the site, in Brook Road, Stourbridge, for redevelopment.

Dudley Council bosses believe it would be suitable for retirement homes.

Stourbridge MP Margot James has welcomed the move and is also asking the council and college to ensure that residents continue to be consulted on the site's future.

She has urged bosses to ensure that part of the site is retained for the use of neighbouring Greenfield Primary School as playing fields.

Ms James said: "We are all agreed that the development of the site must incorporate the views of residents, as well as secure a return for BMET and Dudley Council."

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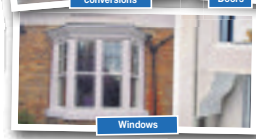
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ENTRIES are still being sought for a competition to find Sandwell's strongest man. The event will be held at Sandwell Valley Country Park in West Bromwich on August 30 and 31 as part of the Sandwell Show.

Disciplines for 2015 include the giant dumb bell press, overhead log lift, giant tyre flip, and tractor pull.

Three training sessions will be held at Hadley Stadium in Smethwick over the next three Sundays from 9.45am to 11.45am.

Mike Childs, duty manager at Hadley Stadium Leisure Centre, said: "It's always a great spectacle and records seem to fall every year as the entrants get faster and stronger."

"Tens of thousands of enthusiastic spectators watched and cheered last year and that definitely charged the competitors and made them even more up for it."

It is £20 to enter and there are two weight categories.

Number of dangerous dogs seized has doubled in region

THE number of dangerous dogs seized in the West Midlands has more than doubled.

There were 287 seizures in 2011/12, which rose to 604 between April 2014 and March of this year.

Last year's figure includes 189 animals seized on suspicion of being prohibited breeds under the Dangerous Dogs Act and 268 that were dangerously out of control.

An expert from West Midlands Police is now working with the Government to address the issue.

Pc Keith Evans said: "In most cases

the fault lies not with the animal's temperament but with its owner: They may be mistreating it, allowing or even encouraging it to behave aggressively, or are simply naïve about how to best look after their dog and how it interacts with other animals and people.

"We appreciate the impact irresponsible dog ownership has on our communities. We have excellent equipment and trained officers to deal with dog-related incidents. All reports of dog-related incidents are taken seriously and I would encourage anyone to report concerns to us on the 101 number."

Pc Evans, who joined the force's dog unit in 2001 and has studied canine psychology, now advises the police on their national policy for dealing with fatal or serious dog attacks. He also works with the RSPCA and the British Horse Society.

He advises dog owners to embed an understanding of everyday objects, people and other dogs into their pets from an early age.

He said: "From the age of about eight to 14 weeks it is extremely important for pups to develop a good association with everyday objects, people and other dogs — it will stay with them for the rest of their lives."



Site is putting business first

DUDLEY Business First has launched a new social media site designed to strike up conversation with the borough's firms and professionals.

It is Dudley Council's single point of contact to respond to business needs and inward investment enquiries for the borough and now this can be done through its LinkedIn page.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "Dudley borough's existing business base is diverse and impressive and we have major new investment opportunities."

To receive updates from Dudley Business First and start that conversation, follow them on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/dudley-business-first>

Tribute to family man motorcyclist



Stewart Hollyoake — had fallen in love with motorbikes

'HE was loving and helpful – the type of bloke who would always be there for you if you were in trouble.'

These are the words of Wayne Shaw as he paid tribute to his brother-in-law Stewart Hollyoake, following his tragic death in a motorbike crash.

Biking fanatic Mr Hollyoake, 52, of Netherton, was killed last month in an accident in Shropshire. Mr Shaw said engineer Mr Hollyoake had fallen in love with motorbikes late in life, having only gained his licence in his 40s. His love of being out on the road took over from all his other hobbies.

Mr Hollyoake died in an accident on the B4368 between Craven Arms and Bridgnorth on July 31 at 4.50pm.

Mr Shaw, of Tilston Drive, Brierley Hill, married to Mr Hollyoake's sister Joanne, said: "Stewart loved his family. He lived life how he wanted to live it and was a proud man. He looked after his mum. He was also a really funny guy, he had a wicked sense of humour."

Mr Hollyoake was raised on the Brickhouse Estate in Rowley Regis, where his mother, Sheila-Anne, still lives. He leaves his wife Dawn and son John.

New brewer alliance to launch at festival

A GROUP of West Midlands breweries are teaming up to stage a beer festival and launch a new alliance.

The event to unveil the Mercian Alliance of Brewers is being held at Green Duck Brewery in Stourbridge from September 4 to 6. Cask and keg beers from the six members will be featured. The group includes Green Duck; Fixed Wheel Brewery, Blackheath; Fownes Brewing Company, Upper Gornal; Twisted Barrel Brewery, Coventry; Two Towers Brewery, Birmingham and Glassjaw, Birmingham.

A beer made in collaboration between all the brewers is being created at Twisted Barrel Brewery for the festival.

The purpose of the alliance is to promote tnew craft beers being produced by small brewers in the region.

"We'd like to invite other brewers to join us. We'd like to be in a position of having increased buying power as a group," said Tom Fownes, of Fownes Brewing Company.

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In Liverpool, Albert Dock has been part of the landscape for over 160 years and boasts magnificent architecture, with the largest group of Grade I-listed buildings in the UK. It is also home to a number of modern attractions including Tate Liverpool, the Maritime Museum (both with free admission), the award-winning Beatles story - the largest permanent attraction in the world dedicated to the fab four, and of course, not forgetting the world famous Mersey Ferries (entrances payable locally).

On New Year's day an optional excursion is offered to Chester Zoo. With over 11,000 animals and 110 acres of award-winning zoological gardens, it's one of the best zoos in the world.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- New Year's Eve party
- Full day in Chester
- Visit to Liverpool
- Optional Chester Zoo excursion offered
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Emmerdale Tour

Two days departing Sept 26 and Oct 11

★ **PRICE FROM £149**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Emmerdale filming set on the Harewood Estate with a guided 90-minute walking tour
- Visit to Esholt - original 'Emmerdale village' including a stop at the 'Woolpack'
- Visit to Saltaire village and the Salts Mill
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Christmas at Chatsworth

Two days departing November 14

★ **PRICE FROM £119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth house and gardens
- Visit to Meadowhall Shopping Centre
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing November 22

★ **PRICE FROM £139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Choir seat for the concert (upgrades offered)
- Sightseeing tour of London or time to shop and sightsee
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Saturday Night London Theatre Go as you please

Two days departures most weekends

★ **PRICE FROM £99.95***

- Ticket for the Saturday evening performance of a West End show of your choice
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Option to depart on a Friday or Sunday also offered
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

* Please note the "from" price and price bands vary for each show
Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

York, Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales

Four days departing October 16

★ **PRICE FROM £209**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Full day in York
- Scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Visits to Skipton, Harrogate and Haworth
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The Pickering 1940's Weekend

Two days departing October 17

★ **PRICE FROM £89.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visits to Pickering and Scarborough
- Optional North Yorkshire Moors Railway excursion
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Colourful Cornwall, St Ives, Padstow and Falmouth

Four days departing Oct 2 and 2016 dates*

★ **PRICE FROM £229**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Trebah Gardens
- Visits to Falmouth, St Ives, Padstow and Penzance
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

* This break also departs on March 18, April 1, May 16, July 8 and September 30, 2016

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Enchanting Scottish Homes and Castles

Five days departing October 25

★ **PRICE FROM £349**

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tour of Bowhill House
- Visit to Floors Castle
- Guided tour of Drumlanrig Castle
- Visit to the New Lanark World Heritage Site
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Disneyland® Paris Bonfire and Fireworks

Three days departing November 1

★ **PRICE FROM £199***

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at Disney's® Hotel Santa Fe
- One day Hopper ticket to both Disneyland Park® and Walt Disney Studios® Park
- Services of a tour representative

*Based on two adults sharing, children aged 3-11 from £119 (conditions apply)
Please note this trip cannot be booked online

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Krakow

Four days various departure dates 2015/16

★ **PRICE FROM £399**

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tour of Krakow
- Visit to the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau (included but optional)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Lake Garda Venice and Verona

Eight days various departure dates 2015/16

★ **PRICE FROM £599**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Lake Garda
- Guided sightseeing tours of Venice and Verona
- Tour of the Dolomites (with an optional cable car ride payable locally)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



Alloy Wire sets sights on £10m sales



The Alloy Wire team celebrate achieving quality accreditations at the Brierley Hill factory of the staff-owned business

A BRIERLEY Hill manufacturer – 100 per cent owned by its staff – has invested more than £700,000 in a bid to increase its global business.

Alloy Wire, which makes round, flat, shaped profile and electrical resistance wires in a range of nickel alloys, has set its sights on reaching £10 million of annual sales by 2016.

It has boosted its capacity across two sites, in the West Midlands and in Yorkshire.

The company recently put the finishing touches on an investment drive that has seen it install three Zwick tensile and hardness testing machines, PMI material x-ray guns, fully automated multi spindle spooling machine,

a five metre strand annealing furnace and a bespoke wire finishing line.

It has given the firm the ability to double its capacity, improve accuracy and extend its capability to produce wire from 0.025mm to 21mm.

Success

“We’ve had a really good time since the global recession, boosting turnover from £4.5m in 2009 to its current £8m level,” explained Mark Venables, managing director, who led the management buy-out two years ago.

“Our success has been down to our ability to take on small batch quantities, fast response times and the fact we can manufacture in more than 60

different alloys. Now is the right time to build on that success and the significant investment we have made in extending the factory and equipping it with automation and state-of-the-art technology will help us offer an even better product and level of service.”

He added: “It’s not just capital we are spending money on.

“All our 25 staff receive ongoing training and are encouraged to learn new skills that can add value to the business.”

Established in 1946, Alloy Wire is a leading manufacturer of precision drawn round wire, flat wire and shaped wire in a range of high performance and exotic nickel alloys.

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Mary Stevens Hospice events manager Charlotte Schofield (left) with founder and director of Got 2 Sing Beth Dunn

A CHOIR will take to the stage at one of the West Midlands' most prestigious venues next month for a charity fundraiser.

Members of the Got 2 Sing choir in Wolverhampton will perform a catalogue of British hits from the likes of Queen, The Beatles and Elton John to raise money for Stourbridge charity Mary Stevens Hospice.

The gig, on September 20, will be the second time the group has performed at the venue after an appearance in 2013. The singers have spent hours rehearsing for the event.

Founder and director of Got 2 Sing,

Beth Dunn, said: "If it is anything like our last performance at the Symphony Hall it will be a wonderful concert."

The Wolverhampton choir will be joined by seven other Got 2 Sing choirs - 420 members in total - from across the West Midlands, Shropshire and Hereford.

The charity, Mary Stevens Hospice, offers specialist care for people living with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses who are unlikely to be cured, as well as support for the patient's families and carers.

Charlotte Schofield, lottery and special events manager for the hospice

said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the Hospice to partner with such a successful and talented group of local people, raising vital funds to support patient care as well as for their families."

These services are provided free to those who need them throughout the Dudley borough, as well as parts of South Staffordshire, Wyre Forest, Sandwell, Hereford and Worcester.

Tickets for the concert on cost £20 (adults) and £16 (under 16s) and can be purchased from the Symphony Hall at www.thsh.co.uk. Further details can be found at www.got2sing.co.uk

Alexandra, queen of a sizzling show

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

The Bodyguard, Birmingham Hippodrome
THE summer blockbuster has arrived in Birmingham with The Bodyguard, a show that delivers an unbeatable blend of glamour, romance and high-energy R&B music.

Based on Lawrence Kasdan's screenplay for the hit 1992 movie of the same name that starred Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, it tells of the rollercoaster relationship between a pop star and her minder, with a creepy stalker lurking in the shadows.

It has a songbook of much-loved chart-toppers from the career of tragic star Whitney Houston.

This show needs a big star to take on the role of the iconic Rachel Marron - and it's got one with plenty of X-Factor in Alexandra Burke. Right from the start with the Queen of the Night number, Miss Burke owns the stage with her interpretation of the feisty diva. She's stunning, sexy and soulful, and as her voice warms up she just gets better and better.

Dance

Not only does she shine in the spotlight with the big ballads but she wows the audience with bootlicking dance routines and emotional dramatic scenes. Surely the fact that she once had a stalker helps her empathise with Marron's plight.

There is chemistry between her and Stuart Reid as security expert Frank Farmer. Whilst an hilarious karaoke bar scene shows he will definitely not



Sexy and soulful - Alexandra Burke in The Bodyguard Photo by Paul Collas

be duetting, he does have dignity and gravitas as the determined protector.

There is a fine supporting cast and production values of the calibre one would expect from a West End hit.

Melissa James, as Rachel's overshadowed sister Nicki, is in fine voice for Saving All My Love and the sisters' powerful duet Run To You is one of the highlights of the show.

Dry wit comes from Adam Venus as Marron's publicist, Mike Denman radiates menace as her crazed fan whilst Xhanti Mbonzongwana turned the cute factor to max as Marron's hip-hop dancing young son Fletcher.

Designers Tim Hatley and Duncan McLean have created an impressive set that lends a cinematic feel with its clever way of pulling in and out like a

lens, and using video techniques. Thea Sharrock's directing is pacy. The only minor flaws are that the threat to the central character is not clear in the confused nightclub scene - that ends with the iconic rescue by her bodyguard - and not all the audience saw the gunman at the front of the stalls for the climatic finale.

And what a finale... Miss Burke's performance of I Will Always Love You in a glittering gown atop of a rising platform was pure theatrical magic.

It prompted a standing ovation that turned into a dance party as the cast returned for a sing-along I Wanna Dance With Somebody.

The Bodyguard is on at the Hippodrome until September 5 and it's going to be the hottest ticket in town.

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fast the ticket



Dogs of War

New musical Dogfight
preview – See Page 19



**NATIVE
MONSTER**
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Mica Paris and Shaun Williamson
star in Love Me Tender – Page 19

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday



Hay Fever

by Noel Coward

Stourbridge Town Hall Theatre
3rd - 5th September 2015
7.30pm

Tickets - £9 each

Concessions £7, from The French Deli,
1 Coventry Street, Stourbridge
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or online stourbridgetheatre.co.uk

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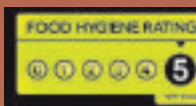
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Shanklin, Isle of Wight	£179.95
Bournemouth & Weymouth	£199.95
Babbacombe & Devon Steam Cruise	£229.95
Bournemouth & Guernsey	£259.95

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Southport & Morecambe	£189.95
Tower of London & Thames Cruise	£279.95
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Weston-s-Mare & Bath	£199.95
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Cloud Atlas



Sunday, 7pm
 Robin 2, Bilston

Cloud Atlas, The Classic Rock Society's best newcomer of 2014, is the new project from Heidi Widdop (Mostly Autumn, Stolen Earth). It is emotional, dark rock.
 Visit www.therobin.co.uk

The Fratellis



Thursday, 7.30pm
 O2 Academy, B'ham

The Glasgow trio are back with a new album, Eyes Wide, Tongue Tied, the sound of a band at its peak. It's packed full of fun, is vibrant with energetic soul, an album that oozes confidence.
www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk

Joyce Sims



Thursday, 6pm
 The Jam House, B'ham

A gifted singer/songwriter, musician, and producer, New Yorker Joyce Sims became one of the hottest dance floor Divas during the late 80s and continues to make music today.
 Visit www.thejamhouse.com

Hamlet



Friday, 6pm
 Wightwick Manor, W'ton

Join the Prince of Denmark as he battles his inner demons and seeks to avenge his late father. This is the second night for this production at Wightwick Manor
 Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk

POP & ROCK

Green Man Festival
 Thurs - Aug 23
 Brecon Beacons, Wales
www.greenman.net

Amped Local Band Night
 Friday, 7pm, £5.50
 Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
 WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Bon Giovi
 Sat at 7pm, £12/£13
 Robin 2, Bilston
 WV14 7LJ
 Call 01902 401211

Cloud Atlas
 Sun at 7pm, £12/£15
 Robin 2, Bilston
 WV14 7LJ
 Call 01902 401211

Remode
 Thur at 7pm, £14/£14
 Robin 2, Bilston
 WV14 7LJ
 Call 01902 401211

Yr Welcome Birmingham
 Sat at 2pm - 11.45pm, Sun at 2pm - 11.45pm, £7.50 - £10
 The Wagon & Horses, Birmingham, B9 4ED.
 Call 0121 772 1403

Dream World Tour
 Mon at 8.30pm, £5.50
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

Fathoms
 Thu at 7pm, £6
 The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

U2 360: The Complete U2 Experience
 Sat at 7pm - 11pm, £10
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Fratellis
 Thu at 7.30pm - 11.30pm, £22.50
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Punk'd
 Fri at 7pm,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

The Guns N' Roses Experience: Guns N' Roses Tribute
 Fri at 7.30pm, £8
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
 Call 01384 397177

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Irish Music Session
 Wed at 8pm,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Open Mic Night

Mon at 8.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
 Wed at 7.45pm,
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street, Pattingham, Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
 Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm,
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road, Walsall, WS3 4BP. Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
 Thu at 8pm,
 Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road, Brewood, ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
 Call 01543 491570

SOUL AND JAZZ

Joyce Sims
 Thu at 8.30pm, £8
 The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
 Call 0121 200 3030

Solid Soul
 Fri - Sat at 11pm - 2am, Sat - Sun at 11pm - 2am, £5 - £10
 The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Soul Junction
 Fri, 8.30pm, £8/£10
 Robin 2, Bilston
 WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Musical Picnic: Andy Usherwood
 Sat at 10.30am - noon, Free
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Youngblood Brass Band
 Wed at 8pm - 11pm, £15
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

CLUBBING

Killer Wave
 Sat at 10.30pm, Free
 The Bulls Head, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8HW.
 Call 0121 256 7777

Relative
 Fri at 10pm, Free
 The Bulls Head, Birmingham, B13 8HW.
 Call 0121 256 7777

All Hands On Decks: World Service

Fri at 8pm, Free
 Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
 Call 01902 716055

Vice Is Nice
 Sat at 4pm - 10pm, Free
 The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
 Call 0121 753 1818

THEATRE

Family Fun Festival 2015: Charlie & Matilda's Marvellous Medicine: Out Of The Box
 Fri at 7pm, £6 - £8
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

Disney's Beauty And The Beast: The Harlequins
 Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £9.25 - £39.25
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Hamlet
 Fri at 6.30pm - 9.30pm, £8 - £35
 Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE.
 Call 01902 760100

Family Fun Festival 2015: 2faced Dance: Kapow
 Fri at 11.15am, 1pm, Free
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

That'll Be The Day
 Thu at 7.30pm, £11 - £24
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

The Bodyguard
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

DANCE

Bhangra Folk Stars
 Saturday, 6pm
 £13.75
 Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
 WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

COMEDY

Comedy Carousel & Real Food Canteen
 Thu at 7pm - 11pm, £5 - £19.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Manford's Comedy Club
 Sat at 7.30pm - 11pm, £12.50
 Players Bar Birmingham, B1 2HG. Call 0121 643 6817

ART EXHIBITIONS

20th-Century British Studio Ceramics
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
 Call 0121 303 1966

Artist Development West Midlands
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Love Is Enough
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, £3 - £17
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
 Call 0121 303 1966

At Home With Vanley Burke
 Fri at 11am - 6pm, Sat at 11am - 6pm, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Tue at 11am - 6pm, Wed at 11am - 6pm, Thu at 11am - 6pm, Free
 Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Small Worlds
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Animal Architecture
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

Takehisa Kosugi: Spacings
 Fri at 11am - 6pm, Sat at 11am - 6pm, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Tue at 11am - 6pm, Wed at 11am - 6pm, Thu at 11am - 6pm, Free
 Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Happy Birthday, Scottish National Gallery Of Modern Art!
 Fri at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Sat at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Tue at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Wed at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Thu at 10.15am - 3.30pm, £1.50
 Birmingham Back to Backs, B5 4TE. Call 0121 666 7671

The Art Of Pastels
 Fri at 10am - 4pm, Sat at 10am - 4pm, Mon at 10am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 4pm, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

TALKS

Simon Owen: Scaling Down Reality
 Wed at 1.30pm, Free
 Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Shifnal, TF11 8UP.
 Call 01902 376200

FAMILY EVENTS

At The Movies: Workshop
 Sat at 2pm - 5pm, £2
 Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF.
 Call 0121 556 0683

Rag Rug Bugs And Blooms: Workshop
 Fri at 11am - 2pm, £2
 Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses, Kinver, Stourbridge, DY7 6DL. Call 01384 872553

Dinosaur Craft Activities
 Thu at 12am, £0.50 - £1
 Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF.
 Call 0121 556 0683

Book/Library Days
 Fri at 11am - 3pm,
 Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU.
 Call 01384 569444

Children's Craft Club
 Wed at 11am - 3pm, £1
 Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU.
 Call 01384 569444

Bug Hotel: Workshop
 Thu at 11am - 2pm, £2
 Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses, Kinver, Stourbridge, DY7 6DL. Call 01384 872553

Peg Plane Magnets: Workshop
 Fri at 11.30am - 3.30pm, £2
 Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, TF11 8UP.
 Call 01902 376200

Lights, Camera, Action! Summer Holiday Activities
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, £7.25 - £45
 The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, DY1 4SQ.
 Call 0121 557 9643

Giant Puppet Workshop
 Wed at 10am - 3pm, Free
 Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF.
 Call 0121 556 0683

Car Rallies
 Sat at noon, Sun at noon,
 Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Shifnal, TF11 8UP.
 Call 01902 376200

VIP Record Fair
 Sat at 10am - 4pm,
 The Custard Factory, Birmingham, B9 4AA.
 Call 0121 224 7777

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

A soldier's cruel bet turns to love



On the razzle in San Francisco, some of the cast of new musical Dogfight, set at the time of the Vietnam War

A NEW musical set in San Francisco is being staged at a theatre above a Birmingham city pub.

Dogfight by Benj Pasek, Justin Paul and Peter Duchan, will be presented in the Old Joint Stock Theatre in Temple Road West until Sunday, August 16.

It is being performed by the Old Joint Stock Musical Theatre Com-

pany, bringing the show to London after it won acclaim in London.

The show – about a group of US Marines before they go to fight in Vietnam – is an adaptation of a 1991 film of the same name. The film explores the relationship between 18-year-old Corporal Eddie Birdlace and awkward, idealistic young waitress Rose, who he first approaches because of a cruel bet with his comrades.

Performances are at 7.30pm with

2pm shows on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are £15 from the box office on 0121 200 0946.

It is not the only new musical heading to the West Midlands. Love Me Tender, with Mica Paris and Shaun Williamson (see below) opens in Birmingham later this month. Then Kneehigh's Dead Dog In A Suitcase (And Other Love Songs), based on The Beggar's Opera, is at Birmingham Rep September 29 to October 3.



'We're laughing every night'

Paris Presley connection

SHE'S loving the show. Mica Paris, a soul star whose speed dial has featured Prince, Mary J Blige, Dionne Warwick and Natalie Cole, is thrilled to be starring in Love Me Tender.

The travelling production of the musical inspired by the music of Elvis Presley has been visiting towns and cities across the UK since June, and from August 24 to 29 will be staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

"It's wicked," says Mica, one of the UK's most respected female singers with a career of Top 10 hit singles and albums worldwide. "We've been on the road for a bit now and I'm loving the show. We're laughing every night. For someone who was running in the opposite direction to the theatre, suddenly I love it."

Ah yes, lest we forget. Mica has a track record in theatre, well, sort of. Twenty-odd years ago, she starred in two West End Shows; Mama I Want to Sing and Sweet Lorraine. They were both successful but, strangely, served only to convince Mica that her future lay anywhere but on stage.

"The last time I did a play was 20 years ago and as much as everybody loved it, I wasn't mentally prepared for it. I was much younger then, so I couldn't cope."

Mica has changed her mind. And she's glad she did. But she hasn't turned her back on recording. She's been working on new material.

"I've been in the studio with Don Black," she said. "We've just done some work together. He put the orchestra on it after I'd done my vocals and it just sounds so amazing."

Rock 'n' roll band to play for charity

A ROCK 'n' roll band playing pop hits from the 1950s and 1960s are to perform at a village hall near Hagley.

Bev Pegg and his All Star Rock 'n' Roll Band will be appearing at Blakedown Parish Rooms, Belbroughton Road, for their nostalgic gig on Saturday. Recent shows in Blakedown and Stourbridge were both sell-outs.

Accompanying music scene veteran Bev will be Dutch Lewis on sax, pedal steel guitarist Maurice Hipkiss, Rod Kelly on keyboard, Roy Parry on bass and Ken Wright drums.

Profits will be donated to Age Concern. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets are £12, call Ken Cowdry on (01384) 392590.

Reggae veterans to get a dub makeover

WOLVERHAMPTON reggae legends Capital Letters are set to release a counterpart album to their latest record, which was named after their home city.

Earlier this year, the reunited reggae group released comeback 'Wolverhampton' to critical acclaim. The album's title track, about the city where the group formed back in 1971, has received radio play across Europe.

The group are to release a digital download called 'Wolverhampton in Dub' on October 16. The band is led by Junior Brown and Lukas Daley.

The new release will focus on the work of producer Dave 'Oldwah' Sandford.

TV comedy talent coming to marquee

A COMEDY club in Stourbridge celebrating its first birthday next month has announced a host of TV names will be performing there in future months.

Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club moves to a monthly Friday night slot from September in a marquee at Katie Fitzgerald's, Envile Street. Headliner at the anniversary gig on September 11 is former Xtra Factor host Matt Richardson. Top of the bill on October 2 is Iain Stirling, from TV's The Dog Ate My Homework. Archie Kelly – Kenny Snr in Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights – appears on November 13. See www.wegotickets.com/comedy/event/328539

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When the chips are down, things grill only get better

WHAT'S that splat?" The Queen of Puds was looking dismissively at her plate, as though a seagull had pooped right in the centre.

"What splat?" "That one there, look."

She pointed to a rubbery square on her plate. It looked like a white-chocolate-jelly and added nothing to an otherwise decent dish.

"That, that splat. Oh My God, you're not going to put that in the review, are you?" And she clasped her hand to her mouth, as though to prevent any more words from falling out.

The Queen Of Puds has been absent from reviewing duties for a year. Bringing babies into the world has denied us of her entertaining presence. But she returned with a vengeance during a dinner at The Granary Grill, in Weston Park.

By Andy Richardson

The Grill is a delightfully located dining room, right in the heart of the Weston Park Estate. Light and airy and offering views over a courtyard and pretty garden, it's a sophisticated steak joint for those willing to travel out of town. Somehow, it's never quite captured the public imagination in the way that similar venues have.

The reason for that is hard to discern, but it's not down to poor service.

Our starters were decent, if unremarkable. I ate a warm, sautéed new potato salad with pancetta lardons, cherry tomatoes and roast garlic, while The Queen of Puds tackled a deep fried avocado with a blue cheese dressing. The salad was reasonable, though the potatoes lacked any crunch or crispy from their sauté pan. The avocado was fine, without hitting any culinary heights.

The accompanying blue cheese dressing was pleasant.

Our mains were better. The Queen of Puds ate the fish of the day, a generous sea bass fillet that had been cooked beautifully. It was arguably the stand-out dish.

I ordered the hickory smoked sticky spiced pork ribs with chips and a garnish. The ribs were great – a treat. The pot of accompanying sauce was delightful. Simultaneously sweet, spicy and hot, it added peppery piquancy to a damn good dish.

But the chips were dreadful. There were five of them. Yes, five. They came in a sad bowl, looking like giants' amputated fingers. One potato, sliced five ways and dropped in the fryer. That was it.

Middle-aged, slightly-overweight fellas need small portions. But they don't want to be able to count the number of chips on one sorry hand. The chips were down, make

no mistake. I'd rather have eaten a bag of McCain's Gorgeous Chips.

And so would The Queen of Puds. But she had other things on her mind. Dessert. And she was on record-breaking, Olympic Gold Dessert Medal-Winning form, as we went for five. Every dish on the menu was consumed, namely potted peach with ricotta ice cream and fresh raspberries, a chocoholics plate, apple galette served with decent ice cream and the pick of the bunch. And, finally summer berries.

The Granary Grill offers a delightful dining room, great service and an uncomplicated menu. The execution of dishes is okay, but not great. Minor refinements and finessing of dishes would make a big difference. It's the tiniest of tweaks here and there, more accurate seasonings, better cooking, you know the drill – just don't order the chips.

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CHOICE



The Saturday Night Story (ITV, 8pm)
Part one of two. Celebrating the best-loved and most watched moments from Saturday night TV, including documentaries and interviews with stars of the past and present. The first show looks at how dancing has evolved from being the supporting act to the main draw, with the advent of programmes like Strictly Come Dancing. The spotlight is also on the best pranks played on the public and celebrities in hidden camera phenomenon shows like Beadle's About and Ant & Dec Undercover. Narrated by Stephen Mulhern.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 10.30 VJ Day 70: The Nation Remembers. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 VJ Day 70: The Nation Remembers. 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.15 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 6.00 BBC News. 6.10 Regional Programme. 6.15 Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. (1989) The intrepid archaeologist sets out to find his estranged father, who has gone missing while searching for the Holy Grail. Once reunited, the duo team up to finish the task and locate the sacred relic before the Nazis get their hands on it. Action adventure sequel directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Harrison Ford, Sean Connery, Alan Rickman, River Phoenix, Julian Glover and Denholm Elliott. 8.15 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the all-important weekend draw. 9.10 Casualty. Dylan creates a scene in front of his colleagues when he hits back at staff nurse Lofy, so Connie gives him one day to prove he is fit enough to carry out his medical duties. Tess's son Sam visits the hospital and introduces her to her first grandchild, meaning she has a difficult decision to make. Meanwhile, after helping Max out with options for the big day, Big Mac is overjoyed when he is asked to be best man at his wedding to Zoe, and Ethan takes the opportunity to ask Honey out after her unsuccessful date. 10.00 BBC News; Weather. 10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Southampton v Everton at St Mary's Stadium and Tottenham Hotspur v Stoke City at White Hart Lane; National Lottery Update. 11.40 Rugby Union. England v France. 12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.45 BBC News.

BBC2

7.25 Film: San Demetrio, London. (1943) 9.00 More Creatures Great and Small. (R) 9.30 More Creatures Great and Small. (R) 10.00 The Women's Football Show. 10.30 Great British Menu. (R) 11.00 Great British Menu. (R) 11.30 Alex Polizzi: Chelsea on Trial. (R) 12.30 Omar Sharif: Talking Pictures. 1.00 Film: Funny Girl. (1968) Musical biopic of Fanny Brice, starring Barbara Streisand. 3.25 Film: Hidalgo. (2004) Period adventure, starring Viggo Mortensen. 5.30 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth. (R) 6.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don seeks help for his box hedges, which are still riddled with blight, and sets about growing mushrooms. Meanwhile, Rachel de Thame visits Highclere Castle in Berkshire. (R) 7.00 Proms Extra. Katie Derham is joined by Maestro Juanjo Mena to review Nicola Benedetti's performance of the Korngold Concerto, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, and two Pastoral Symphonies. 7.40 Edwardian Farm. The team heads to Dartmoor to explore how shepherds took advantage of the landscape. Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn get to grips with shearing, while Ruth Goodman visits a wool mill. (R) 8.40 Dad's Army. The men of Walmington-on-Sea's Home Guard use up all their ammunition shooting at a passing aircraft, so Captain Mainwaring has to hold a court of inquiry. (R) 9.10 VE Day: Remembering Victory. May 8, 2015 marked 70 years since Winston Churchill announced the Second World War in Europe was over, prompting Britain to throw the biggest street party the country has ever seen. David Attenborough, Bruce Forsyth, Miriam Margolyes and June Whitfield are just a few of the well-known figures sharing their memories of the end of the conflict. Narrated by Julie Walters, with contributions from others including Johnny Ball, Honor Blackman, Jill Cooper, John Craven and Una Stubbs. (R) 10.40 Film: The White Countess. (2005) Period romantic drama, with Ralph Fiennes and Natasha Richardson. 12.45 Dancing Through the Blitz: Blackpool's Big Band Story. (R) 2.15 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Super 4. (R) 7.45 Fish Hooks. 8.00 Young Justice: Invasion. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.25 ITV News; Weather. 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.35 Tipping Point. (R) 2.35 Celebrity Squares. (R) 3.20 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.15 Catchphrase. (R) 6.00 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.15 ITV News; Weather. 6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of viewers' videos, featuring a cat terrorising a postman and an accident at the top of the Eiffel Tower, as well as elaborate pranks. (R) 7.00 Keep It in the Family. Bradley Walsh hosts the game show in which families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. Six Emmerdale stars face the drop as two families from London and Bolton decide whether to swap a prize, drop it or keep it in the family. Plus an aerial bike act performs, the Nanas are back, and a kids musical theatre group sing from "Annie". 8.00 The Saturday Night Story. Part one of two. Celebrating best-loved and most watched moments from Saturday night TV, including the evolution of dancing and the hidden camera phenomenon. 9.00 Film: The Bourne Supremacy. (2004) The amnesiac assassin is living quietly in hiding, until his former employers come after him again and murder his girlfriend. A CIA operation has ended in disaster, and those responsible intend to clear their names by implicating Bourne. As the former secret agent tries to evade the hitmen on his trail, he also struggles to piece together the truth about his past. Action thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon. 11.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.20 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser. (R) 12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 Ejector Seat. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.35 The Grid. 7.00 London Triathlon. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 Rude(ish) Tube. 1.25 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Ripon. 4.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.45 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.45 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.10 Come Dine with Me. It is the final night in Manchester and glamorous girl Maria is serving her twist on Asian cuisine, which manages to impress daddy's girl Sasha. (R) 6.40 Channel 4 News. 6.50 Great Canal Journeys. New series. Veteran actors and married couple Timothys West and Prunella Scales celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with four adventures around the canal networks of Britain and France. In the first edition, the pair head to the West Country to travel along the fully restored Kennet and Avon Canal. Taking in the sights, characters and wildlife from Bath to Devizes, Wiltshire, the duo enjoy an eventful journey along the picturesque 21-mile stretch of water. 8.00 Walking Through History. Tony Robinson hikes up from Lyme Regis in Dorset to the Somerset Levels telling the story of the 1685 Monmouth Rebellion, an attempt to overthrow James II. Last in the series. (R) 9.00 Film: Red. (2010) A retired CIA agent survives an assassination attempt and realises something in his past has made him a target. He sets out to reunite the members of his old hit squad to find out who is trying to kill them and why, but in the process, uncovers dangerous secrets. Action thriller, with Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman. 11.10 Film: Repo Men. (2010) A man employed to repossess artificial organs questions his career when he needs a mechanical heart he cannot pay for. Sci-fi thriller, with Jude Law and Forest Whitaker. 1.15 The Last Leg. (R) 2.15 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.20 Double Your House for Half the Money. (R) 5.15 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) 5.25 Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Cowboy Builders. (R) 11.30 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.30 Cowboy Builders. (R) 1.25 Film: North Sea Hijack. (1979) Thriller, starring Roger Moore. 3.20 Film: The Dirty Dozen. (1967) Second World War action adventure, with Lee Marvin. 6.10 Sinkholes: Buried Alive. The underlying forces behind sinkholes, which can occur gradually – when the surface subsides into bowl-shaped depressions – or suddenly, when the ground gives away. (R) 7.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A man in Cumbria takes issue with his neighbour's free-roaming menagerie of birds, and a pair of horse-breeders in North Wales clash with the owners of a yurt business. (R) 7.55 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Sheriff Paul Bohill tackles the case of a small debt owed by ex-footballer Neil "Razor" Ruddock to a kennel owner, before being forced to evict a school dinner lady in south London. Meanwhile, in the north of England enforcement agent Stewart MacCracken heads out with trainee Iain Taylor to confront a Yorkshire builder they need to get payment from at his home, while a reptile shop owner hit by online competitors urgently needs to pay a debt for the feed company he relies on to keep his animals alive. (R) 8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the latest games, including Milton Keynes Dons v Preston North End and Queens Park Rangers v Cardiff City in the Championship, as well as all the goals from League One and League Two. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers. 10.25 Rob Brydon Live. A stand-up show recorded at Norwich's Theatre Royal during the comedian and actor's first UK tour in 2009, featuring comic tales, impressions, songs and anecdotes. (R) 11.20 The Great British Benefits Hotel. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Transporter: The Series. 4.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones. (R) 4.50 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth 7.15 Don't Tell the Bride 8.15 Top Gear 9.15 Film: The Mexican (2001) 11.10 Family Guy 1.30 People Just Do Nothing 2.00 Prunface 3.30 People Just Do Nothing 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Natural World: Chimps of the Lost Gorge 8.00 Lost Land of the Volcano 9.00 The Young Montalbano 10.50 Top of the Pops 1978: 11.50 It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC 12.50 4,000 Year Old Cold Case: The Body in the Bog 1.50 Lost Land of the Volcano 2.50 Delphi: The Bellybutton of the Ancient World 3.50 Close
ITV2
11.00 Take Me Out 12.10 Film: Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993) 1.55 You've Been Framed! Kids Special 2.55 You've Been Framed! 3.25 Film: Jack and Jill (2011) 5.20 The X Factor: The Boss Looks Back 6.25 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) 9.00 Film: Practical Magic (1998) 11.10 Film: The Matrix Reloaded (2003) 1.50 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.15 Life's Funniest Moments 2.35 Teleshopping 5.35 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.05 Rosemary & Thyme 12.05 Wycliffe 1.10 Agatha Christie's Marple 3.10 Film: All Creatures Great and Small (1975) 4.55 Film: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Lewis 10.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 12.00 Wire in the Blood 1.30 Never the Twain 1.55 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
3.40 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 5.15 Film: A View to a Kill (1985) 8.00 World Series of Darts: Perth 11.30 Film: 30 Days of Night (2007) 1.45 I Want That Car 2.35 Movies Now 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
E4
2.00 The Goldbergs 3.30 How I Met Your Mother 4.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.30 The Big Bang Theory 5.00 Film: Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) 11.05 Gogglebox 1.05 Rude Tube 2.10 How I Met Your Mother 2.55 2 Broke Girls 3.45 Rules of Engagement 4.10 Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special
Film4
11.00 The Lady Vanishes (1979) 1.00 Congo (1995) 3.10 The Rugrats Movie (1999) 4.45 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) 6.35 Multiplicity (1996) 9.00 The Five Year Engagement (2012)

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CHOICE



Abz

Country Strife: Abz on the Farm (BBC2, 9.45pm) New series. The former member of 1990s boy band Sive and his girlfriend, singer-songwriter Vicky Fallon, try to lead a self-sufficient life by running a small holding in Wales, despite having no experience in farming. In the first episode, they seek advice from the residents of an eco village, go looking for suitable land and make their first attempt to buy livestock at auction.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **11.45** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Flog It! (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Animal Odd Couples. (R) **4.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Earth's Natural Wonders: Vast Wonders. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Countryfile**. Joe Crowley and Anita Rani report from the Country Land and Business Associations annual game fair at Harewood House near Leeds. Joe tries his hand at kayak fishing and introduces his dog Oscar to the stars of the show at the event's gun dog competition. Anita talks to female clay pigeon shooters and conservationists trying to protect the endangered grey partridge. Plus, Tom Heap investigates land reform in Scotland and Adam Henson looks at country breeds in Yorkshire. **8.00** **Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate more potentially valuable works of art, beginning by helping a man who believes he owns a painting by French post-impressionist Edouard Vuillard. The quest for provenance begins in Geneva, where Philip compares the picture with a huge Vuillard work created in 1919, trying to find out whether the same materials were used in both, while Fiona uncovers clues to the picture's origins in France and Holland. Once they have enough evidence, they seek the approval of the Wildenstein Institute in Paris – but these are the same experts who notoriously rejected a highly credible Monet back in the very first episode. Have they done enough to prove this picture is genuine? (R) **9.00** **Partners in Crime**. Part one of three. Tommy is sent on a secret undercover mission to unmask a Russian spy and discover what has become of a nuclear scientist who has gone missing. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. **11.30** Film: **New Town Killers**. (2008) **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

8.15 Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Great British Menu. (R) **11.15** Great British Menu. (R) **11.45** Great British Menu. (R) **12.15** MOTD Extra. **1.00** Rugby Union. (R) **2.00** European Amateur Rugby Championships. **2.50** Equestrian. **4.00** Dancing Through the Blitz: Blackpool's Big Band Story. (R) **5.30** VJ Day 70: The Nation Remembers – Highlights. **7.00** **Burma, My Father and the Forgotten Army**. Griff Rhys Jones visits Ghana and Burma as he explores the stories of the Africans and Asians who fought for the Allies during the Second World War. (R) **8.00** **Dragons' Den**. The dragons give their opinions on ideas for an electric tuk tuk and a range of Korean inspired sauces – but the pressure proves too much for one would-be entrepreneur. **9.00** **Odyssey**. Odelle and Aslam are rescued from an awkward situation by Luc, who apparently has his own reasons for keeping Frank Majors alive. Back in New York, Sophia works with Peter. **9.45** **Country Strife: Abz on the Farm**. New series. The former boy band member and his girlfriend, singer-songwriter Vicky Fallon, try to start their own small holding in Wales, despite having no experience in farming. **10.15** **Family Guy**. Stewie and Brian use their time machine to help Chris pass his history test, but trouble ensues when the trio all get stuck in the past. **10.35** **Family Guy**. Peter and his cronies go on a worldwide quest to seek out and confront God about His messing with the outcome of the New England Patriots' football games. **11.00** **Family Guy**. Chris learns he is the heir his grandfather Carter's fortune, but he refuses to take the money – leaving Peter to resort to desperate measures to keep the wealth in the family. **11.20** Film: **Let Me In**. (2010) A bullied boy befriends a mysterious girl, unaware she is a vampire who is behind a recent series of killings. Horror remake, starring Chloe Grace Moretz. **1.05** Film: **We Are What We Are**. (2010) **2.30** Sign Zone: **Countryfile**. (R) **3.25** Holy City. (R) **4.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.35** Film: **Smokey and the Bandit**. (1977) Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason. **3.25** Film: **The Incredible Hulk**. (2008) Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton. **5.30** The Chase. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** **Nature Nuts with Julian Clary**. Julian meets a woman who takes care of thousands of injured hedgehogs and helps her check up on a former patient. He also uses cameras that can see by moonlight to help a woman who streams footage from her garden on the internet to observe an elusive family of badgers, and takes two "otter spotters" to visit a unique sanctuary. Last in the series. **8.00** **Midsomer Murders**. It's the day of the Little Crosby Folk Festival and organiser Toby Winning is found dead, having drowned in a bowl of eggs and live eels. The murder seems to have been inspired by a ballad made famous by the late, lamented star Johnny Carver. Then it comes to light the victim recently announced plans to move the event to a new location, which would have cost local entrepreneur Frank Wainwright dearly. Toby's estranged wife Alice also comes under suspicion, before two further killings take place, echoing more lyrics from the song. (R) **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** **Man and Beast with Martin Clunes**. Part one of two. The comedy actor travels to Nepal, where he meets a farmer whose cows not only provide milk, but also the fuel for lighting and cooking in his home. (R) **11.15** **56 Up**. Another chance to see the 2012 instalment of the landmark documentary series, featuring an update on a group of participants whose lives have been chronicled since 1964. (R) **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** British GT. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **The Real Noah's Ark: Secret History**. The story of Irving Finkel, an expert on ancient Babylon, and his discovery of a 4,000-year-old tablet that sheds new light on the biblical tale of Noah's Ark. Having spent 20 years translating the artefact, Finkel sets out to show that the narrative originated from Sumerian and Babylonian society and literature for thousands of years. The ancient clay tablet is inscribed with the world's oldest language and gives detailed instructions on how to build an ark. Inspired by his find, Finkel and a team of archaeological boat builders set out to construct a real Noah's ark and discover if this coracle-shaped boat can float. (R) **8.00** **Experimental**. Tim Shaw and Buddy Munro go to the Caucasus Mountains in Georgia, and try riding down the slopes on a shovel. Tim also builds a football-firing air cannon to recreate an incident where a ball was fired from a coach, and rebounded back to be caught by one of its passengers. The duo watch a video of an unusual firework in a Thai religious festival, and build a giant rocket out of bamboo. **9.00** Film: **Zero Dark Thirty**. (2012) Premiere. A CIA operative joins a team of intelligence and military operatives in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. She spends the next 10 years searching for information on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, ultimately leading to the final raid on the terrorist leader's hideout. Kathryn Bigelow's fact-based drama, starring Jessica Chastain and Mark Strong. **12.05** Film: **Splice**. (2009) **1.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football League Tonight. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Film: **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked**. (2011) Comedy sequel, starring Jason Lee. **3.40** Film: **Willow**. (1988) Fantasy adventure, starring Warwick Davis. **6.10** Film: **Three Men and a Cradle**. (1987) The lives of three father-sharing bachelors are turned upside down when they discover a baby left on their doorstep. Unfortunately, while trying to get to grips with the necessary parenting skills, they find themselves menaced by criminals searching for missing drugs. Comedy, directed by Leonard Nimoy, starring Tom Selleck, Ted Danson, Steve Guttenberg and Nancy Travis. Edited for language and product placement. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** **Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones**. Reports of a handgun leads to a hotel being locked down while officers get prepared, while thieves crash a stolen car after a chase and are forced to flee on foot. (R) **9.00** Film: **Yes Man**. (2008) Premiere. A depressed and anti-social loans adviser attends a self-improvement course and decides to start saying yes to every opportunity that comes his way. His outlook is immediately transformed, but he soon realises that some invitations should not be accepted and struggles to find a balance in his life. Comedy, loosely based on the autobiographical book by Danny Wallace, starring Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper and John Michael Higgins. **11.05** Film: **Killers**. (2010) Action comedy, starring Ashton Kutcher and Katherine Heigl. **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Under the Dome. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Top Gear. **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride. **9.00** Film: **Minority Report** (2002) **11.20** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **12.30** Family Guy **12.50** People Just Do Nothing **1.20** Russell Howard's Good News **2.20** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **2.35** Film: **Revenge of the Bridesmaids** (2010) **4.00** Close **BBC Four** **7.00** BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.45** Pop Go the Sixties **9.00** Cilla at the BBC **10.00** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **11.00** Eisteddfod 2015 **11.30** Elvis: That's Alright Mama 60 Years On **12.30** Singa Elvis **1.30** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **2.30** Treasures of the Louvre **4.00** Close **ITV2** **11.45** Take Me Out **12.55** The X Factor: The Boss Looks Back **1.55** Film: **Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey** (1993) **3.40** Film: **The Shaggy Dog** (2006) **5.40** The X Factor: Cheryl's Classic Cuts **6.45** Film: **Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous** (2005) **9.00** Film: **Casino Royale** (2006) **11.55** Safeword **12.35** Fake Reaction **1.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.50** Life's Funniest Moments **2.10** Meghan Trainor: The Hot Desk **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **11.30** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** The One and Only Cilla Black **9.00** The Mighty Mississippi with Trevor McDonald **10.05** Birds of a Feather **10.35** Northern Lights **11.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.25** Blue Murder **2.40** On the Buses **3.05** Movies Now **3.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4** **11.40** Pawn Stars **1.30** Film: **Captain Newman MD** (1964) **4.10** Film: **Spartacus** (1960) **8.00** World Series of Darts: Perth **11.30** Film: **Child's Play 2** (1990) **1.20** Hell on Wheels **2.05** Hogan's Heroes **2.30** Movies Now **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **2.35** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** The Goldbergs **5.00** Film: **Inkheart** (2008) **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Rude Tube **10.00** Gogglebox **12.05** Tattoo Fixers **1.10** Young, Free & Single **2.15** Gogglebox **3.05** Melissa & Joey **Film4** **11.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **1.00** Home Alone 3 (1997) **3.05** Ponyo (2008) **5.15** California Man (1992) **7.00** Evolution (2001) **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** Underworld: Awakening (2012) **12.50** Floating Clouds (1955) **3.25** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Seduced by Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman hopes to make a fresh start with a new relationship in defiance of her father's wishes, and turns her back on old friends when they are suspicious of her boyfriend. However, she gradually comes to realise that he has a shady past and is not as perfect as he appears. Thriller, starring Josie Davis and Marc Menard. (2010)

TUESDAY
A Time to Remember, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A middle-aged single mother returns under a cloud to the family home for Thanksgiving, where she tries to heal the fractured relationship between herself and her estranged mother. However, any possible reconciliation is threatened by an unexpected and dramatic development. Drama, starring Dana Delany, Doris Roberts and Louise Fletcher. (2003)

WEDNESDAY
Transsiberian, BBC1, 11.35pm
American couple Roy and Jessie are heading from China to Moscow on the Transsiberian railway when they befriend fellow travellers Carlos and Abby. However, when Roy fails to board the train following a station stop, Jessie begins to suspect her new travelling companions are harbouring a deadly secret. Thriller, starring Woody Harrelson. (2008)



Beowulf, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
I Dream of Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A psychiatrist investigates the murder of a patient, but as the case progresses she is forced to face her own inner demons. Mystery, starring Jolene Blalock and Martin Cummins. (2006)

FRIDAY
Beowulf, ITV, 10.40pm
The realm of Danish King Hrothgar is terrorised by a fearsome monster. A renowned warrior arrives to slay the beast, but an encounter with its seductive mother gives rise to a terrible bargain with tragic consequences. Animated fantasy based on the English language's oldest surviving epic poem, using motion-capture technology to recreate real actors, including Ray Winstone and Robin Wright. (2007)

Famous faces take a trip down memory lane

Rock on Tommy – here's a chance to relive some of the best moments Saturday night TV has delivered over the decades. Actually, let's qualify that – some of the best moments to feature in ITV's shows, because this is really just a low-budget way to fill up the schedules while the broadcaster gives itself a good, old-fashioned, pat on the back. Last December, Michael Grade hosted a rather more serious and in-depth programme entitled The Fight for Saturday Night TV over on BBC Four. He was the ideal man to take charge, basically because he'd been in the thick of it himself, doing battle for both the Beeb and ITV at different times in his career. The documentary examined how and why Saturday's evening schedule had become such a battleground over the years, and that it was a war for ratings that was still raging, with the heavyweights – Strictly Come Dancing and The X Factor – currently packing the biggest punches. Over the years, ITV has probably fared the best out of the two stations; perhaps glitz, glamour and flashing lights sit more easily on the third channel than they do on the BBC, a place that no matter how hard it tries, can't shake of its mantle as a venerable institution. We're not sure we'd want it to, either. So while Strictly may have bucked the trend by pummelling Simon Cowell's all-singing juggernaut into submission during the past few years, overall, ITV has featured more light entertainment classics than it can shake a stick at. And there's one woman who will certainly feature highly in this short series. It may have been produced before Cilla Black's sudden death a fortnight ago, but as she had been a stalwart of Saturday nights on ITV thanks to Blind Date, you can bet she'll pop up before too long. But there are plenty more celebrities and their programmes featured here. 'Rock on Tommy' – the words that open this article – is, of course, the once-famous catchphrase of Bobby Ball, and were always spoken to his comedy partner Tommy Cannon, usually accompanied by a pull on his brightly coloured braces. They were popular with everyone from the age of five to 95, and had a long-running show that lasted from 1979 to 1988. It turned them from being popular on the comedy circuit into major stars and household names. They're among the famous faces offering their opinions on Saturday night telly here, alongside the likes of Ant and Dec, Jonathan Ross, Vernon Kay, Bruce Forsyth, Dermot O'Leary, Amanda Holden, Petula Clark, Alesha Dixon and Marty Wilde. Cannon and Ball aren't the only celebrities to become well-known thanks to weekend TV, as Gladiators' bad boy Wolf will tell you. He and glamourpuss Jet are reunited by Ulrika Jonsson in Birmingham to talk about the programme's popularity, while Henry Kelly and Matthew Kelly relive the excitement they had while making Game For A Laugh. Expect more fun and games from next week's concluding episode.

lately after the death of Cecil, a big cat who had been a leading attraction at a national park in Zimbabwe until he was killed by hunters. However, in this documentary, which catches up with the pride featured in Africa's Giant Killers: Natural World, the lions are definitely the hunters rather than the prey. They do face threats though, as the start of the rainy season sees a power struggle amongst the males and a challenge from a rival pride, while an inexperienced mum puts her cub in danger, and a lightning strike leads to fires burning day and night. It seems the cats have only one option if they are to avoid starvation – they have to take down an elephant.



Ant & Dec feature, The Saturday Night Story, Saturday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Scandalous Lady W, BBC2, 9pm
Her roles in Game of Thrones and The Tudors mean she's no stranger to tales of sex, power and intrigue, so who better to take the lead in this one-off period drama than Natalie Dormer? It tells the remarkable true story of Seymour, Lady Worsley, who created an 18th-century scandal when she left her husband Sir Richard Worsley (Endeavour's Shaun Evans) for his best friend George Bisset (Aneurin Barnard, who was recently seen in Cilla). Her spouse was so outraged by this turn of events that he sought compensation from her lover for defiling his 'possession'. However, Lady Worsley was about to create another scandal as she exposed the secrets of her marriage, in the process challenging ideas about a woman's worth.

Revenge Porn, Channel 4, 10pm
Anna Richardson goes to extraordinary lengths to investigate what happens when someone maliciously shares intimate photos of another person without their consent. Anna meets the victims of such actions, talks to experts and confronts the perpetrators of these crimes, the effects of which can have devastating and life-changing consequences. As she digs deeper, she discovers a community of men who take pleasure from threatening and shaming women online and decides to place herself at the epicentre of the revenge porn phenomenon.

TUESDAY
School Swap – The Class Divide, ITV, 9pm
Part one of two. Cameras follow a private head, his state school counterpart and six of their pupils as they spend a week in each other's worlds. Does going private really give parents and pupils a first-class advantage, and does a state education really mean second-rate? This documentary attempts to unpick the educational gulf dividing Britain's school system. In the first episode, headmaster Mark Mortimer and his trio of pupils from the 400-pupil private boarding establishment Warminster School visit the 700-pupil state secondary Bemrose School in Derby, run by Jo Ward.



The Scandalous Lady W, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY
Building the Ancient City, BBC2, 8pm
The first of two documentaries in which Andrew Wallace-Hadrill looks at the building of the ancient cities of Rome and Athens. He begins with in Greece, where 2,500 years ago, Athens gave birth to the idea of a city run by free citizens, with every aspect of daily life – from defence to waste disposal – controlled not by a king, but by the people. This led to a system of open government, and the first constitution laying down the rights of citizens – almost 2,000 years before Britain's Magna Carta.

FRIDAY
Katie Price: In Therapy, Channel 5, 9pm
The TV personality and glamour model undergoes an intense month of psychological evaluations conducted by Dr Claudia Bernet, a leading expert in women's mental health. Interweaving her life story with scientific assessments and the views of those who know Katie best, this documentary aims to help her discover what toll 20 years in the public eye has taken on her emotional wellbeing and make sense of her turbulent career and personal life.

The Best of Bad TV, Channel 5, 10pm
The series charting TV gaffes continues with a look at 2000s, a decade which brought the rise of the reality star and dubious game show formats. Last in the series.

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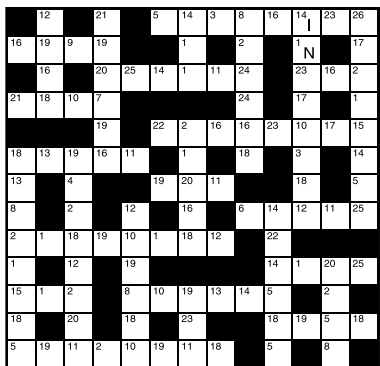
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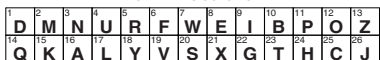
BRAIN GYM

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



1	N	14	I
2		15	
3		16	
4		17	
5		18	
6		19	
7		20	
8		21	
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13		26	

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

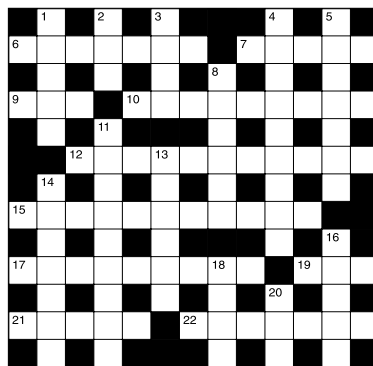
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. An adornment so often misplaced (7)
7. Short presentation at court? (5)
9. Hostile observer (3)
10. Powered flight? (9)
12. Coolly having something to fall back on (4,7)
15. Suffering - under corrupt government? (2,1,3,5)
17. Important description of a plateau (4,5)
19. Start in the stable (3)
21. Rascal found in church, we hear (5)
22. Inferior articles that don't last long (7)

Down

1. Shape altered a great deal (5)
 2. Took down a note (3)
 3. Outstanding manager (4)
 4. Pretty useless objects? (9)
 5. Determine to find another answer (7)
 6. Undiscovered talent developed (6)
 7. Be a bad actor? (9)
 8. Was shifty and naturally guarded (6)
 9. Points to portents fluttering in the breeze? (7)
 10. Not light, but it may go on one (5)
 11. First mate right as always (4)
 12. Get into the habit of an academic (3)



Quick Clues:

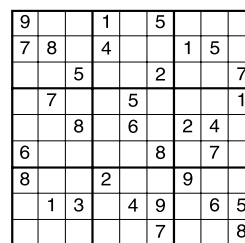
Across

6. Travel (7)
7. Static (5)
9. Behave (3)
10. Dishonest (9)
12. Almost (11)
15. Stupidly (11)
17. Robustness (9)
19. Chop (3)
21. Hurl (5)
22. Loss (7)

Down

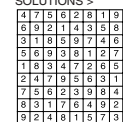
1. Compel (5)
2. Curve (3)
3. Yield (4)
4. At first (9)
5. Bother (7)
8. Neglectful (6)
11. Chairman (9)
13. Group of emigrants (6)
14. Sudden collapse (7)
16. Send (5)
18. Discard (4)
20. Mine (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Flash in the pan; 8 Base ball; 9 Tank; 10 Fitter; 12 Inland; 14 Agents; 16 Novice; 18 Carp; 20 Swallows; 22 Beside the mark. Down: 1 Cleaning; 2 Assent; 3 Lima; 4 Stallion; 5 Rental; 6 Main; 11 Resisted; 13 Nice work; 15 Napkin; 17 Volume; 19 Abet; 21 Ache.
 QUICK - Across: 7 Dishonourable; 8 Minister; 9 Tube; 10 Parent; 12 Ignore; 14 Leader; 16 Grimly; 18 Clap; 20 Strength; 22 Accommodation. Down: 1 Mitigate; 2 Thrive; 3 Unit; 4 Guarding; 5 Carton; 6 Gib; 11 Tiresome; 13 Relation; 15 Deploy; 17 Ignite; 19 Lack; 21 Rude.

Quiz

1. What was the nickname of Baron von Richthofen?
2. With which city do you associate the Raffles hotel?
3. Which monarch is found on a Penny Black stamp?
4. Who was the Indian boy in Kipling's Jungle Books?
5. Who wrote The Ginger Man?
6. In what year was Harrods founded?
7. What is the U.S. equivalent of the British postcode?
8. In what U.S. state is Yale University?
9. In what year was the Jarrow hunger march?
10. Which country is the 'Land of the Midnight Sun'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Northern Territory: 2 The Boston

Strangler: 3 Cheeses: 4 Desdemona: 5 A.A.

Milne: 6 Venus: 7 Florence: 8 High speed

train: 9 Elba: 10 Sweden.

Niner: BLOCKHEAD

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

349945 gives a dog,
57648 gives a bird,
217 gives a snake.



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Three-bedroom family home has kitchen-diner



THIS extended three-bedroomed family home in Hurst Road, Coseley, features an excellent large kitchen-diner.

This is an ideal family home and viewing is highly recommended. It is for sale through Swinscoes at £180,000. Full of character and in a popular location, it has a porch, entrance hall, open plan style kitchen-diner, utility, large lounge and conservatory, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The property benefits from having double glazing, gas central heating, a double garage to the rear and also a private garden.

For further information contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit the website www.swinscoes.co.uk



Apartment is in a convenient location

A TWO-BEDROOMED purpose-built apartment in Grange Court, Grange Road, Dudley, is within walking distance of the town centre.

With views and attractively presented throughout, it is for sale through Trinity Property at offers in excess of £69,950.

It comprises a hallway, lounge with fireplace, kitchen with cream units and contrasting working surfaces, spacious shower room and parking conveniently placed to the rear. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the accommodation on offer. Call 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net



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Halesowen



Carters Lane

- * Semi-detached house
- * Extended kitchen/breakfast room
- * Conservatory
- * Three good sized bedrooms
- * Bathroom with shower cubicle
- * Garage
- * Beautiful rear garden with sunny aspect

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £284,950

Halesowen



County Park Avenue

- * Detached family home
- * Good sized living room and dining room
- * Re-fitted kitchen and Re-fitted Bathroom with Shower Cubicle
- * Garage
- * Lovely Rear Garden

EPC=D
£250,000

Halesowen



Blakedown Road

- * Semi Detached
- * Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- * Re-fitted Kitchen and Re-fitted Bathroom with Shower Cubicle
- * Garage
- * Lovely Rear Garden

EPC=D

Offers in the region of £189,950

Halesowen



New John Street

- * Semi-detached house
- * Re-fitted kitchen
- * Full width rear living room
- * Three bedrooms & bathroom
- * Garage

EPC=D
£125,000

Rowley Regis



Druids Avenue

- * Semi detached house
- * Two reception rooms
- * Three bedrooms
- * Bathroom with shower cubicle
- * Large block paved driveway

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £139,950

Oldbury



Chester Rise

- * Mid Terraced house
- * Three bedrooms
- * Modern Kitchen
- * Rear Garden

EPC=C
Offers in the region of £119,950

Halesowen



Corville Road

- * Semi-detached house
- * Cul-de-sac location
- * Extended living room and dining room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Re-fitted bathroom with separate wc
- * Lovely rear garden benefitting from rear access

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £189,950

Halesowen



The Rosegardens

- * Spacious house planned on three floors
- * Fitted kitchen/breakfast room/ fitted cloakroom
- * Lounge leading to conservatory/dining room
- * Principal bedroom with en-suite
- * Two further bedrooms
- * House bathroom
- * Enclosed gardens, carport and parking space
- * Double glazed windows, gas boiler heating radiators

EPC=C
£179,950

Halesowen



Lusbridge Close

- * Detached house situated in cul-de-sac
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Utility
- * Two reception rooms and conservatory
- * Four bedrooms (one with en-suite)
- * Garage

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £289,950

Rowley Regis



Darby Street

- * Semi-detached bungalow
- * Close to Blackheath town centre
- * Reception hall, lounge, kitchen
- * Bedroom, bedroom 2/dining room, bathroom
- * Pleasant gardens, off road parking, gas boiler radiators

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £125,000

Halesowen



Corville Road

- * Extended semi-detached house
- * Through living room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Side garage
- * Cul-de-sac location

EPC=E
Offers in the region of £184,950

Halesowen



Newbury Close

- * A Tastefully Presented Detached House
- * Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room
- * Dining Room
- * Lounge Leading to Conservatory
- * Principal bedroom with en-suite
- * Three further bedrooms
- * House Bathroom
- * Landscaped Private Gardens
- * Garage

EPC=C
Offers in the region of £290,000

Halesowen



Hagley Road

- * Self contained coach house
- * Living room
- * Fitted kitchen
- * Two bedrooms
- * Car port

EPC=C
Offers in the region of £114,950

Halesowen



Gower Road

- * Spacious detached house
- * Three bedrooms
- * Lounge
- * Dining room
- * Breakfast kitchen & Re-fitted bathroom
- * Utility/WC
- * Delightful garden

EPC=E
Offers in the region of £259,950

Halesowen



Feldon Lane

- * A Detached Family House
- * Two reception rooms
- * Three bedrooms
- * Bathroom
- * Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- * Fitted Cloakroom

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £174,950

Halesowen Hayley Green



Hagley Road

- * A Detached Family House
- * 4 Bedrooms
- * Ensuite Shower Room
- * House Bathroom
- * Dining/Hall
- * Lounge
- * Conservatory
- * Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- * Fitted Cloakroom
- * Large Garage
- * Double Glazed Windows
- * Gas Boiler Heating Radiators
- * Landscaped Garden

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £325,000

Halesowen



Middlefield Avenue

- * Semi detached house
- * Through living room and dining room and extended kitchen
- * Utility and wc
- * Four bedrooms
- * Garage
- * Good sized rear garden

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £224,950

Halesowen



Narrow Lane

- * Traditional style semi-detached house
- * Three bedrooms and shower room
- * Lounge, dining room and fitted kitchen
- * Utility room, side garage, good sized gardens
- * Gas boiler heating radiators, double glazed windows
- * A must view property

EPC=D
Offers in the region of £209,950

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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



NEW

HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£950 pcm+Fees
A superb opportunity to rent this lovely traditional semi-detached house in central Halesowen. The property comprises of a welcoming hallway with downstairs cloakroom with w.c., dining room, large separate lounge, study/playroom, kitchen with integrated appliances, 4 bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room, family bathroom with shower, private rear garden, garage in separate block with driveway parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Grange Road£750 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent this lovely traditional semi-detached house in central Halesowen. This property comprises of: Front reception room, rear lounge, modern fitted kitchen, beautiful rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage. Available August. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Blackberry Lane£725 pcm+Fees
A superb recently decorated throughout including new carpets is this 3 bedroom semi-detached house in central Halesowen. This lovely home has a welcoming hallway, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, conservatory, downstairs wc, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, front & rear gardens, driveway parking. Available Now. EPC: E



LET

BARTLEY GREEN, Hunnington Close£625 pcm+Fees
Modern 3 bedroom mid-terrace house in quiet cul-de-sac, close to shops and transport. Large lounge with feature fireplace, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, private rear mature garden, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, white bathroom with "P" bath and shower. Garage en bloc. EPC: C



LET

CRADLEY HEATH, Wesley Close£595 pcm+Fees
Unfurnished mid news modern house undergoing a MAJOR REFURBISHMENT. This lovely family home comprises of: gas central heating, lounge/dining room, brand new fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, master with en-suite, family bathroom with shower, rear garden, close to local school and train station. Available September. EPC: C



NEW

HALESOWEN, Bethesda Gardens£575 pcm+Fees
Hicks Hadley are delighted to present a 2 bedroom 1st floor apartment. The property is double glazed and centrally heated. The accommodation is approached via a secure intercom system and briefly comprises a reception hall, modern open plan lounge/kitchen with diner, 2 bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master, further family bathroom, communal parking and gardens. Available Now EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Talbot Street£550 pcm+Fees
Step inside this fantastic 3 bedroom terrace property. Renovated throughout within the last 6 months to a very high standard, featuring 2 great size reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, fully tiled bathroom with electric shower, gas central heating system. EPC: E



LET

HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+Fees
An extremely well maintained 2 bedroom semi detached property situated towards the head of a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station. Featuring a great living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, recently installed double glazing, driveway, gas central heating and easy to maintain rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Kildermister, West Midlands, DY11525 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom ground floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house comprising of: porch, lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances and granite work tops, double bedroom, fully tiled bathroom with shower, study, gas central heating (under floor heating to kitchen & bathroom) double glazing, communal gardens and allocated parking. Available Now! EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Banners Lane£525 pcm+Fees
Unfurnished newly decorated throughout detached house in a sought after location and on a bus route to Halesowen. This large family home features gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway parking and a court yard garden. EPC: TBC



DUDLEY, Highfield Court £525 pcm+Fees
A modern ground floor apartment which is double glazed windows and central heating. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, fully fitted kitchen with integrated fridge freezer, 1 double and 1 single bedroom and allocated parking. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road£525 pcm+Fees
Located on this very popular Timbertree Estate and ideally situated for The Timbertree Primary School and transport links. Having recently had a brand new kitchen/diner in the last 6 months and also features 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, front reception room, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden and on road parking. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Clifton Street£520 pcm+Fees
Within walking distance to Old Hill shops and local train station. A well presented unfurnished modern mid terrace house benefits from gas central heating, lovely living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, 2 allocated parking spaces. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Hope Street £495 pcm+Fees
●FULLY REFURBISHED● A beautifully presented ground floor apartment having under gone a full refurbishment in the last 12 months. Ideally located for Blackheath Town Centre, Rowley Regis Train Station and the M5 J2. Featuring a large spacious lounge, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with a shower. The apartment also has the added bonus of a garage and gardens to front and rear, double glazing and gas central heated. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Pippin Avenue£425 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished, modern, spacious ground floor flat on this popular estate and briefly comprising: open plan living room/ fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, full double glazing, parking space. A minimum contract of 12 months is required. EPC: D



LET ON FIRST VIEWING

STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£425 pcm+Fees
A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the 1st floor and features a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, double glazing and electric heating, on road parking. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Oldbury Road£425 pcm+Fees
Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat above shop. Gas central heating, part double glazing, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, on road parking. Rent includes water rates. EPC: E



SELLY OAK, Shenley Fields Road£425 pcm+Fees
Two 2nd floor rooms within a house of multiple occupation. The location is within the area of Royal Orthopaedic, Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth hospitals as well as Birmingham University. The room benefits a fitted wardrobe and the rent includes the use of gas, electricity, water, 50MB broadband, Sky TV (including Sky Movies) and gardener.



CRADLEY HEATH, Trinity Road£395 pcm+Fees
House share in a large Victorian semi-detached home. Large furnished double bedroom available in this lovely period house. Kitchen, bathroom and large lounge are all shared facilities, wi-fi broadband. Rent to include all bills. 2 people sharing will be £100 pcm extra. Available now. EPC: E



LET

HALESOWEN, Lyde Green £375 pcm+Fees
Located on the popular Homer Hill Estate in Halesowen is this unfurnished 2nd floor flat, comprising of: Living room/fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, garage, and residents parking. Available now. EPC: E



SELLY OAK, Shenley Fields Road£375 pcm+Fees
A 1st floor room within a house of multiple occupation. The location is within the area of Royal Orthopaedic, Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth hospitals as well as Birmingham University. The room benefits a fitted wardrobe and the rent includes the use of gas, electricity, water, 50MB broadband, Sky TV (including Sky Movies) and gardener.

PROPERTY

Extended family semi with four bedrooms



THIS extended four-bedroomed semi at New Birmingham Road, Dudley, is for sale through G&T Properties at £229,000.

It has a porch, entrance hall, lounge with a period style fireplace, dining room with patio doors, kitchen/breakfast room with a beamed ceiling, cushion-air floor covering, glazed ceramic wall tiling, spot lighting, lobby, laundry. Bedroom one en suite, dressing room/bedroom four, two further bedrooms, a bathroom, garage and garden and garden stores/workshop.

Call 01384 261997 or visit the website at www.gandtproperties.co.uk



Cul-de-sac location for three-bedroom detached



THIS modern three-bedroomed detached property in Bridle Grove, West Bromwich, has a pleasant cul-de-sac location. It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £245,000.

With majority double glazing and central heating, it has an entrance hallway, a lounge/diner with a gas fire and patio doors, a kitchen with cooker, hob and extractor, a ground-floor WC, utility room, three bedrooms, en suite and first floor family bathroom.

It also has a driveway, a garage and a rear garden with lawn and patio area and a gate to the side.

For further information call Paul Dubberley on 0121 5252111 or visit the website www.pauldubberley.co.uk





QUINTON | £285,000

- Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two Recp Conservatory Kitchen W/c
- Four Beds Master En-suite, Bathroom
- Garage Drive Front Rear Side Garden

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OLDBURY | £185,000

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QUINTON | £180,000

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom Sep W/c
- Off Road Parking garden To The Rear

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QUINTON | £180,000

- Traditional Semi Detached EPC Rating F
- Two Reception Kitchen Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms and Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Driveway Rear Garden

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OLDBURY | £180,000

- Extended Semi Detached EPC Rating E
- Lounge/Diner Ext Kitchen Cloaks W/c
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Drive Large Rear Garden

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WHITLEY CT RD, QUINTON |

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating F
- Through Lounge Diner Open Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Off Road Parking Rear Garden

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OLDBURY | £165,000

- Detached Bungalow EPC Rating D
- Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Shower Room
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens

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OAK ROAD, OLDBURY |

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Through Lounge/Diner Kitchen Utility
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens

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FAIRWAY ROAD, OLDBURY |

- End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room and Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms and Bathroom W/c
- Block Paved Drive Garden To The Rear

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BARTLEY GREEN | £125,000

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To Front Garden To The Rear

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FAIRWAY ROAD, OLDBURY |

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Property Recently Refurbished
- Lounge Kitchen/Diner Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c

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BLANDFORD RD, QUINTON |

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Recently Refurbished Throughout
- Lounge and Fitted Kitchen Downstairs
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c

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OLDBURY | £99,950

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Two Reception Areas Kitchen W/c
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room W/c W/c
- Gardens To The Front and Rear

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ROWLEY REGIS | £535

- Ground Floor Apartment EPC Rating D
- Lounge Open To Kitchen Bathroom W/c
- Two Bedrooms Master En-suite
- Immediate Availability Fees Apply

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BARTLEY GREEN | £525

- First Floor Maisonette EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Available Mid September Fees Apply

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ROWLEY REGIS | £415

- Upper Floor Apartment EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen Bedroom Bathroom W/c
- Allocated Parking Area To The Rear
- Available Mid September Fees Apply

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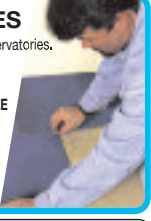
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6 Property

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accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

CODSALLS bed detached house, two receptions, dining room, garden. £995 pcm. 07890 503574.

ONE BED FLAT Brierley Hill, furnished, CH, off road parking, garden. £350pcm. 07877 873330.

ONE BED FLATS, Cradley Heath and Old Hill areas. Deposit required. No texts. 07976 781003.

THREE BED DETACHED, Pendeford, W-10n, CH, parking, excellent, no DSS. £550pcm. 01902 781997.

TWO BEDROOM flat to let, Market Square, Wolverhampton. £550pcm. No Dss. 07877 241704.

houses for sale



TETTENHALL
Five bed character house for sale. Foxwood, 72 Wrottesley Road, Tettenhall, WV6 8SF. Open Day, Saturday, August 15th. Call House Network for appointment. £540,000 ono 01245 930165

land

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Five miles from Perigueux City, the Capital of the Dordogne Building permission would be available for the plot which has had the trees and roots removed also levelled ready for building on, if required a reputable construction company can acquire permission to build the plot is 66 metres x 26 metres = 1716 sq metres.
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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A4 2.0 TDI
Estate, automatic, 55 reg, full service, excellent condition. £2,875 ono. 07474 057704.

BMW 120D SE 2004, 117,000 Miles, Silver, electric windows, air con, Mot 02/16, Diesel - drives well! £3,000 ono 07761532710

FORD KA 1.3 Edge, 2012, blue, 17,600 miles, FSH, 12 months MOT. £4,500. 01902 657299.

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VAUXHAL CORSA SXI 1.2 16v
Twintop 2006, 35,000 miles, silver, ABS, electric, FSH, alarm, long Mot, alloys, Showroom condition. £2,600. 07940 739084.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC
2001, blue, 5-dr, 32,000 miles, full dealer service history, 7 months Mot, one former owner, electric, Air con, alloys, very good condition. £1,499. 07525 536767

FORD FOCUS 2.0 TITANIUM SALOON AUTOMATIC
55 reg, petrol, Mot April, heated leather seats, parking sensors, alloy wheels, 58,000 miles, very good condition. £2,800 ono 07807 869209.

LEXUS IS220D
2009, 24,000 miles, (only used on long journeys and holidays), metallic slate. All extras, one owner, fsh, 4 new tyres. Excellent condition. £8,650. 01694 724664.

PEUGEOT 407SW 2007, 68,000 miles, 10 months Mot, 2.0HDI, Automatic, £2,500. 07870 558755.

SKODA FABIA ESTATE 1.6 SE
Diesel, 45k, 10 reg, FSH, 60mpg, Immaculate, £4,995. Genuine callers only. 07850 330 251

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Classified Ads

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2011, 55,800 miles, grey, abs, electric windows / mirrors, air bag, air con, alarm, MoT, metallic, central locking, one owner, alloys, stereo, sat nav.
£6,200 ono
07870 508532.

TOYOTA COROLLA SR
1.6 petrol, 56 plate, 15k miles, 12 months MoT, FSH, blue.
£4,250

TOYOTA RAV 4
3dr, 52k miles, 54 plate, 2.0 petrol, 12 months MoT, FSH, silver.
£3,250.
01902 761208.

TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT, 1.33.
5 dr, hatchback, 2011, Red, 23,000 miles, 8 months MoT. Excellent condition.
£4,995
01384 277190.

TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3.
2004, 28k, grey, s/s, MoT, Dec 2015, owned last 10 years, excellent condition, £2,500 ono. 0121 602 3053.

VAUXHALL ASTRA White, 2012.
1.7 Ecotec, diesel, free road tax, MoT, excellent inside/out, economical, £2,295 ono. 01902 637376.

VOLVO C30 D50. 2007, 83,000 miles, silver, fish, MoT, auto, diesel, leather interior, £3,200 ono. 01384 355487.

cars under £1500
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ALFA ROMEO 2.0 T SPARK
2000, MoT Feb 2016, FSH, PAS, Air con, blue, very well maintained, excellent condition.
£4,995
07676 187878.

BMW 316 COMPACT AUTOMATIC, 2000.
W reg, lady owner, MoT, Service History. 82k. Must be seen. Excellent condition.
£895ono
01384 823449.

CITROEN SAXO 1.1. 2003, 52,000 miles, silver, 11 months MoT, some service history, excellent condition. £895 ono. 07734 162895.

RELIABLE CAR
FIAT PUNTO 1.2ELX
2001, 31,000 miles, light blue, electric windows, air bag, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas
£750 ono.
07974 993880.

FIAT PUNTO 2001, 32,800 miles, 5 doors, EV, air bag, MoT Aug 31st, CL, CD, Good runner, dent in door £400 ono 07954 407365.

FORD MONDEO DIESEL 2.0 GHIA X ESTATE
04 reg, silver, 6 speed, abs, heated seats, alloys, parking sensors, folding mirrors, s/h, long MoT, drives well.
£1,195.
Telephone 01384 258061 or 07831 609261

LAND ROVER FREELANDER
Kalahari, 2003, petrol, 1.8, 91,000 miles, MoT till mid October, £1,300 ono. 01902 338584.

MAZDA PREMACY ADVANTI
2001 X Reg, petrol, MoT Feb, AC, EW, PAS, ABS, tow bar, looks and drives lovely, high miles.
Hence £550 ono
07908 134383.

NISSAN PRIMERA 1.6, 105,000 miles, S reg, 12 months MoT, good condition and runner, £400. 01902 780586

PEUGEOT 206 3dr, 04 reg, body-work needs attention. £400 ono. 07952 978302.

PEUGEOT 206 SPORT
2004, 36,000 miles, metallic blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, Alloys, Stereo, CD.
£1,350
01902 798543.

PEUGEOT 406 LXS 16 valve, alloys wheels, 4 months MoT, £330. 01384 78588. 07572 836519

RENAULT CLIO DYMANIQUE 16v, 1.2, (04), full MoT, 70k, excellent condition, £250. 07494 090052.

RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9 DCI Est. 2002, MoT Oct, EW, SR, alloys, CD change, computer, air bag, hence £450 ono 07737 600541.

RENAULT MEGANE
2005, 81,000 miles, 1.6 petrol, 4 door, new battery, long MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, minor damage to nearside sill easy repair. £795
Call 07789 696284 or 07500 773551.

ROVER 75 1.8 AUTO 2002, 38,000 miles, silver, 3 owners, SH, service and MoT, very good condition 01 420 01952 884481

TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO 2.0 LITRE 75,000 miles. B reg. No MoT. £950. 01902 949950

TOYOTA RAV 4. 1998, 147,540 miles, blue, electric windows, electric mirrors, long MoT, sunroof, D/socket towbar, £750 ono. 01562 639201.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 12v, 03 plate, 10 months MoT, new exhaust, £700 ono. 07733 272900.

VAUXHALL OMEGA 02 reg, 6 months MoT, gas conversion, very good condition for age, £495 ono. 07733 272900.

VW GOLF 1.9 TDi. 51 reg, 5-dr hatch, mint green, PAS, remote Cd, MoT, all electric, FSH, valour interior, CD, £1495ono. 07813 595440.

VW POLO 1.2 S
03 plate, 5 door, Hatchback. Petrol, 87,000 miles, CD, A/C, FSH, New clutch.
New MoT, Good and clean.
£1,250.
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commercial vehicles

FORD ESCORT 55 VAN
1800 diesel, white, 2001 plate, good running order, 6 months MoT, 81,000 miles.
£800 ono
01299 871029.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4 HDI VAN
2005
45,000 miles warranted, mint, £2,495.
01922 495631 / 07768 841443.

PEUGEOT PARTNER 600LX 1.9
diesel Panel van, 2005, 109k Miles, MoT Oct 15, Ply Linen, Good condition. £1,100 ono 0791938715

VAUXHALL ASTRA VAN, 1.7, CDTi, 2006, silver, AC, alloys, service history, £2k, very good condition. £1,680. 07754 156336.

VAUXHALL COMBO VAN 1.7TDI.
2004, 54 plate, 156,000 miles, white, 8 months MoT, ply, 17inch TSW alloy wheels, £800. 07950 174983.

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KAWASAKI ZR750 F1 1999. Good condition. 23k miles, long MoT. New chain-sprockets-pads. £1,150. Wolverhampton: 07754 121452.

KAWASAKI ZR750 F1. 1999. Good condition. 23k miles, long MoT. New chain-sprockets-pads. £1,250. Wolverhampton: 07754 121452.

scrap vehicles

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spares & accessories

CREMATION PLOT for sale, for 4 people, Bilston Cemetery. 01902 791047.

I AM TRYING TO FIND A MISS S. COX
Originally from Shifnal but worked at Riggs Hall, Shrewsbury, last known to be living in Wolverhampton.
I am a Mrs Christine Evans, formerly Christine Bailey and she was my Bridesmaid in October 1959.
Please can anyone with any information please write to me at the following address:
Box Number P19991 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Tifford Lane, Rowley Regis) (Temporary One-Way Operation) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Tifford Lane, Rowley Regis between Birchfield Lane and Winchester Close either side in a south easterly direction. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 27/08/15, effective from 25/08/15. Alternative route for north westerly bound vehicles via York Road, Penrickett Lane, and Oldbury Road. Purpose – to excavate and repair a damaged sewer – Arney/Severn Trent Water.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10

Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemen's Club, 5* customer rated Mon-Fri 10-5pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

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In Dudley and surrounding areas.
For coffee, chats, lunch, days / nights out, holidays etc.
Great sense of humour required. Age range 40-50.
Loads of fun and laughter guaranteed.
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general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CREMATION PLOT for sale, for 4 people, Bilston Cemetery. 01902 791047.

I AM TRYING TO FIND A MISS S. COX
Originally from Shifnal but worked at Riggs Hall, Shrewsbury, last known to be living in Wolverhampton.
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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart, age 39/40. Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418117

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTm genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm call Sarah and age 37/ys. Pls call, ACA, Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box No: 418167

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks bromdiamed man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 412369

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4550198

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905

KELLY, 42yrs, loves to chat and flirt with guys on-line and by text. Text only to Mailbox No: 465847

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

MINDY, American lady moved to UK and looking to meet British chap for chats, fun, more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4658653

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

TARA, 32, own successful business but very shy and lonely seeks confident chap. Text only to Mailbox No: 4646629

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

PROFESSIONAL gentleman would like to meet a lady, any age/race for discreet daytime fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4653198

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4283663

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim built, looking for a man 50+ 55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for non complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTm similar male for romantic liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

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You can now date online or via your mobile. Simply VISIT us at:

http://dating.expressandstar.com

Been left a message? Pickup your replies on:

0906 500 3957

calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network charges

PLUS you can also listen to other members greetings on this number.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

TALL, dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with 47-56 for LTR/Romance. Single Mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox No: 4730876

JOHN 26, GSOH, likes the outdoors, wine and good food, medium athletic build, WLTm older woman for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4488256

LONELY male, 57, seeks Chinese/Jamaican/Romanian male/female for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418245

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481

VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157

NEIL 51, GSOH, WLTm, a caring, sensitive lady for romantic nights and possible LTR, 32-56. Text only to Mailbox No: 4670827

SINGLE male, likes camping, walking, cycling, dogs, sightseeing, WLTm n/s healthy female for companionship

California dreaming . . .

Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles has announced pricing for the latest generation California, ahead of UK dealers starting to take orders for the new campervan from next week and first deliveries before the end of the year.

Prices start at £37,657 for the Beach model. Continuing a campervan tradition which spans more than 60 years, the Volkswagen California is the only vehicle in its class to be designed, engineered and built in-house.

The new California is available in two trim levels – Beach and Ocean – and with a choice of three 2.0-litre engines ranging in power from 102 to 204 PS. All are EU6 compliant and feature Blue-Motion Technology modifications to give fuel consumption and emissions

figures which have been lowered by up to 15 per cent. A 4MOTION four-wheel drive version is also offered in conjunction with the 150 PS or range-topping 204 PS powerplant.

Entry to the California range starts with the Beach model which offers up to seven seats and sleeping space for four. The bench-seat easily folds to convert to a two-berth bed across the width of the vehicle, while a manual pop-up roof gives access to a further double bed. A fold-out table and chairs are cleverly stored in the sliding door and tailgate, while an integrated awning makes for a comfortable and practical camping experience.

The Beach is available with a 2.0-litre 102 PS TDI engine with a five-speed manual gearbox, and a 2.0-litre TDI 150 PS with a six-speed manual or seven-speed DSG transmission.

The California Ocean replaces the SE model from the previous generation, with prices starting from £47,840 (RRP OTR inc VAT).

Customers can choose from two engines with either 150 or 204 PS and six-speed manual or seven-speed DSG gearboxes. 4MOTION four-wheel drive variants mean the ultimate 'home from home' can go further and wider afield.

The Ocean also adds an electro-hydraulic pop-up roof with lighting, plus a kitchenette with two rings, a fridge and sink.

The new generation California adds a host of safety, comfort and convenience features. These include a driver alert system, brake assist and an automatic post-collision braking system, as well as the option to add innovations such as adaptive cruise control, front assist and city emergency braking for safer



'The California remains a unique offering by being the only factory-built camper van on the market.'

and more relaxed cruising. In the cabin the California gains a new 'premium' dashboard (optional on Beach) with wide centre console and car-like feel, plus the latest infotainment system, DAB digital radio, Bluetooth and new multi-function display.

A new cupholder as well as new fabrics, leathers and plastics enhance the ambience inside.

For more information or to register your interest in the new California, please visit your local Authorised Van Centre or go to www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk

Since its launch in 1988, the California has become the benchmark vehicle in the camper van sector. 22,000 examples of the first T3 California models were produced – with the T4 version recording 39,000 sales. More than 50,000 examples of the outgoing T5 version have been sold to date. The California remains a unique offering by being the only factory-built camper van on the market.

Production of the new model will continue at Volkswagen's bespoke assembly facility in Hanover, Germany.



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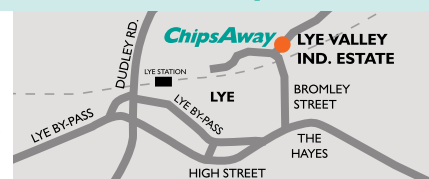
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Top tips for used buyers

Used car demand has tailed off slightly due to the holiday period while the SUV market continues to go from strength to strength. One of the current best buys is the Porsche Boxster.

"The Porsche Boxster represents great value as a used car and many envious onlookers will think the buyer has spent a bucket load more cash than they actually have," said Gavin Amos, head of valuation services at My Car Check.

My Car Check, a leading consumer vehicle data provider, has saved millions of people from making an expensive used car mistake.

In its monthly bulletin its used car experts reveal significant trends in the UK market and choose a 'car of the month'.

"Even at around ten years old, the ageing second generation 987 variants still look fresh today," said Amos. Boxster offers an exhilarating drive no matter which engine you choose and the chassis is nothing short of superb.

"When it comes to negotiating, remember, as well as revealing a car's history, My Car Check also provides vehicle valuations – a great tool for haggling with dealers or private sellers."

As to market trends, Amos said: "July brings little change to the used car market. Although demand has tailed off slightly due to the holiday period, used values remain relatively stable.

"Only older vehicles, in particular those with higher than average mileage,

have seen reductions this month, mostly just one to two per cent.

"With the downsizing trend continuing, Corsa, Fiesta and the Korean competition are thriving. The SUV market continues to go from strength to strength and every manufacturer wants a piece of the action. Nearly all are either already selling, or in the process of unveiling, new variants.

"Renault are entering the fold with new Kadjar, Suzuki have the new Vitara and Seat are about to launch a new A-SUV model. These will create an even more congested sector with consumers spoilt for choice. During the holiday season we historically experience a plateau in enquiry levels, allowing dealers to focus on new registration orders for delivery in September," said Amos.

Check

My Car Check's parent company, CDL Vehicle Information Services, performs over a million look-ups a day for companies including AutoExpress, CompareTheMarket, Confused.com, Go-Compare, Moneysupermarket, Swiftcover, Tesco Compare and WhatCar?

It uses up-to-the-minute data from the police, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and all major finance houses, including Lloyds TSB and Santander.

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Heathens title hopes are still very much alive

CRADLEY skipper Max Clegg insists the club's title hopes are still alive after their stunning win over runaway leaders Birmingham.

The Heathens are now entering a run of away meetings, starting at Stoke on Saturday, as they aim to close the gap on their Perry Barr track sharers and turn up the pressure.

Said Clegg: "I'm just so pleased we were able to get the win to keep our chances of the title alive, because if we'd have lost we know that would have been it."

"It's still going to be very difficult, and we can't really afford any slip-ups, but if we can approach every meeting like that Birmingham meeting then we should keep on winning."

"We've got our hardest meeting out of the way and won it, so we are definitely capable of winning our remaining meetings."

"We've got three away meetings coming up which won't be easy, but I think if we are at our best we can win them all which would move us right up there with Birmingham."

"All we can do now is focus on our own meetings, and if we can keep winning over the rest of the season that's bound to put some pressure on Birmingham."

"We have to keep believing we can go all the way. We've been aiming from the start of the year to defend our title."

Heathens are without the injured Nathan Greaves on Saturday along with Matt Williamson who is on Premier League duty for Workington.

Their next home meeting at Perry Barr is on Wednesday August 26 against King's Lynn.

Clark commits to Villa with five-year deal

CIARAN Clark has signed a new five-year contract with Villa.

The 25-year-old defender ascended through Villa's youth-team ranks to become a key member of the first team.

He said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to sign a new contract. I've been at Villa since I was a kid and I want to continue to play for this fantastic football club."

"Everyone is looking forward to the new season and I'm delighted to be going into the opening game on Saturday knowing my long-term future has been sorted."

Manager Tim Sherwood added: "It's great news. Ciaran wears his heart on his sleeve."

"You know what you're going to get from Ciaran - he gives everything for the cause and that's all you can ask for as a manager."

Cradley triumph in thrilling derby

CRADLEY kept their National League title ambitions alive as they edged a nail-biting 46-44 triumph over co-tenants Birmingham in a dramatic encounter at Perry Barr.

The depleted Heathens showed plenty of grit and determination to overcome the absence of Matt Williamson due to injury to claim local bragging rights in a tense last-heat decider.

They appeared set for a long night when skipper Max Clegg suffered mechanical gremlins on the opening lap of heat one - but he bounced back in style to notch 11+1 points as himself and the in-form Ellis Perks spearheaded a strong team performance.

After reserve duo Arron Mogridge and Tyler Govier had combined to give the Heathens an early lead in heat two, Perks pulled off a remarkable ride to force his way past Zach Wajtknecht before picking off Sam Chapman for victory in heat three.

With Clegg comfortably leading heat five, partner Michael Neale put pressure on Chapman causing him to hit the deck, moving the Heathens eight clear.

Yet Birmingham hit back, capitalising on a fall for the hard-charging Perks in heat seven to strike a second successive heat advantage.

With rain starting to fall, wins for Clegg and Perks moved Cradley six clear.

Adam Ellis and Tom Perry struck a Brummies a

5-1 in heat 13 before Wajtknecht rounded Darryl Ritchings on the final bend of the penultimate race.

With a tense last-heat decider in prospect, Birmingham No.1 Ellis rounded off a faultless 15 point maximum in perfect fashion but Clegg and Perks held their nerve to shut out Perry and ensure Cradley claimed three vital points.

BIRMINGHAM 44: Adam Ellis 15, Tom Perry 9+1, Zach Wajtknecht 9, Sam Chapman 4+1, Adam Kirby 4, George Hunter 2+1, Alex Wilson 1.

CRADLEY 46: Ellis Perks 12, Max Clegg 11+1, Michael Neale 8+1, Darryl Ritchings 7+1, Arron Mogridge 6+1, Tyler Govier 2+1, Matt Williamson R/R.

A message from Rudy in first hit

Bournemouth 0 Villa 1
RUDY Gestede scored 13 minutes into his Villa debut to secure a 1-0 victory at newly-promoted Bournemouth.

The 6ft 4in striker, a £6million summer arrival from Blackburn, thumped home a header from an Ashley Westwood corner after coming on as a second-half substitute.

Bournemouth, making their first top-flight appearance in English football, dominated for large spells but spurned a number of good opportunities against a largely lacklustre Villa side.

Cherries boss Eddie Howe kept faith with the team which earned his side promotion to the big time with Josh King, a free signing from Blackburn, and goalkeeper Artur Butuc the only fresh faces in his line-up. Veteran defender Sylvain Distin had to make do with a place on the bench.

For Villa, without former captain Fabian Delph, now of Manchester City, and Christian Benteke, who joined Liverpool in a £32.5million deal, boss Tim Sherwood blooded six new signings.

Partnered

Micah Richards, the club's new captain, partnered Ciaran Clark

at the heart of Villa's defence while Idrissa Gueye and Scott Sinclair, now a permanent player following his loan spell from Manchester City, also started for the visitors.

Jordan Veretout, Jordan Amavi and Jordan Ayew were also handed their Villa bows.

Bournemouth emerged to Queen anthem *We Will Rock You* in this most historic of matches, and the hosts did not let their supporters down, dominating the opening 45 minutes.

Not long after the restart, the visitors finally called Boruc into action when Agbonlahor cut back for Ayew but his shot was well saved.

With an hour gone, Sherwood handed Gestede his debut and he immediately caused the hosts problems.

And with 72 minutes played, he provided the game's defining moment.

From Westwood's corner, the giant striker leaped highest to break Bournemouth hearts. Bournemouth searched in vain for an equaliser.

Amateur rider Sue is champion



Champion Sue Knight with her trophy on Newydd Charlie Boy and Rachael Brown, from Solution Saddles

AMATEUR horse rider Sue Knight, from Halesowen, is riding high in the saddle after coming back from a national contest as a champion.

Knight is now the 2015 Combined Training 65cm Champion which she earned at the Specialist Equine Insurance Brokers (SEIB) Trailblazers National Championships at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire.

She won the honour riding her own 11-year-old gelding, Newydd Charlie Boy.

The Championships are the culmination of the hard work put in by amateur riders who went through a two-round qualification process at 65 venues across the UK.

Knight almost didn't make it to the contest after she bought Charlie as an unbroken two-year-old.

She had a serious accident when another horse kicked her knee, leaving her unable to walk for a year, and she thought she may not be able to ride again.

"I thought we were going to have to sell him, we even had someone come and look at him", said Knight.

However, a good friend helped her break and school Charlie whilst she was unable to ride.

Hales hope to extend unbeaten run of games

HALESOWEN head into their local derby at Stourbridge on Saturday in good heart after extending their unbeaten run.

Opening duo Kilbee and Stebbings laid the foundations for their 263-8 off 55 overs with an opening stand of 86 in their winning draw over Brewood.

And they received solid support from Tarryck Gabriel, in his last game for the club before returning to St Lucia this week, who scored 89 from just 74 balls.

Brewood got off to a quick start in reply with opener Chris Tranter (21) only wanting to deal in boundaries, but he was first out with the score on 37-1.

Gabriel was brought on second change and took a triple wicket maiden in his first over which saw Brewood collapse to 51-5.

After opener Cartwright (45) fell LBW to Rich Brooker the Owen total was always out of reach and the home batters put up the shutters and batted out the draw.

Brewood finished on 196-8 with Andrew Day undefeated on 59. Pick of the bowlers were Gabriel with 3-45 and Brooker 4-32.

Skipper Brooker said: "Once again we put in a very solid batting performance with a platform set by Kilbee and Stebbings."

"Gabriel converted the good start into a very good total in spin friendly conditions which was very pleasing."

"A bright start from Brewood was stunted with five quick wickets which ended the game as a contest, again this was very pleasing."

Meanwhile, Halesowen second XI slipped to a home defeat to Old Hill and Shifnal take over at the top of the table.

Swimmers competing in new contest

FIVE swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club competed in the ASA National Summer Championships at Ponds Forge International Pool Sheffield.

New for 2015, this competition was for top-ranked English swimmers who did not qualify in the earlier British Championships in a particular event.

With swimmers consistently outperforming their personal best times, Josh Bradley made the Open 50m butterfly and backstroke finals.

Jack Simpson in the 14-year-olds 100m freestyle and Kate Morrice the 12/13years 50m freestyle finals.

But the best placed finish of the week was by James Cuthbert who won the silver medal in the 14-year-olds 100m butterfly final.



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Sport

It's a message
from new Rudy
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Sue riding high
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Albion's the best place for Saido, Taylor

ALBION legend Bob Taylor wants goalscoring star Saido Berahino to commit himself to the Baggies and continue learning his trade at The Hawthorns.

"SuperBob" says Berahino should resist any moves from bigger clubs to lure him away from the Baggies and make the most of regular first-team football to hone his skills.

Berahino, who is set for fresh talks over a contract extension once he chooses a new agent, scored 20 goals last season to spark speculation about interest from the Premier League's biggest clubs.

But Taylor said: "He's only a young striker and he has scored goals for us, but he hasn't done much in the game to prove he can do it consistently."

"So he needs to stay put with us and we need to look after him and nurture him and hopefully there will be new signings who come along up front who can help him if they've got experience."

"Hopefully he can bang in another 20 goals this season if not 25, and if he's doing that with help from other strikers or attacking midfield players we will win more games than we lose."

"He's getting first-team football here. He's the big fish in the small pond."

"If he goes to another club, does he want to be sat on the bench week in, week out?"

"The money is there if he wants to go but I'm a big believer if you learn your trade somewhere where you're already getting well paid then the money looks after itself."

"Hopefully he will have a sensible head on his shoulders and people around him who will guide him."

Berahino's return to form at the end of last season saw the Baggies climb away from relegation danger and Taylor is hopeful Pulis can mastermind further improvement this season.

Peace committed to driving the Baggies forward

CHAIRMAN Jeremy Peace insists he is ready to drive Albion on despite almost selling the club this summer.

Peace says he is as committed as ever to improving the Baggies after calling a halt to his proposed sale to a Chinese consortium in the closed season.

And Peace delivered a ringing endorsement of head coach Tony Pulis in the match programme for last night's season opener against Manchester City at The Hawthorns.

He wrote: "It became clear to me that this potential purchaser was unable to fulfil the terms of a good faith agreement."

"I did not feel the club's long-term stability and development would be best served by continuing discussions."

"It is worth noting that the club was the subject of widespread interest from other suitors and it was gratifying that all due diligence drew unanimous confidence in, and praise for, our club and its operations."

"We remain in strong financial health and I can assure you I am as committed as ever to driving Albion forward."

Jittery Wolves come through in the end

Wolves 2 Newport 1

BENIK Afobe was once again on target – his second in two games this season, or fourth in consecutive games if you count pre-season – as Wolves nervously overcame plucky League Two side Newport County.

The Welsh side took advantage of some slack early Wolves defending as Kenny Jackett's team started a game on the back foot yet again, with Scott Boden scoring a shock early opener.

But Nouha Dicko soon levelled and then Afobe won and converted a second half penalty. Despite some nervy moments Wolves saw it through to win their first League Cup game in Jackett's

Football

reign. Jackett handed full debuts to goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez – signed on loan from Arsenal just hours earlier – and fellow loanee Sheyi Ojo.

He surprisingly selected Matt Doherty on the right of midfield, and handed Afobe the armband for the first time in his Wolves career in a very strong XI.

But, as against Blackburn on Saturday, Wolves made a slow start.

And this time it cost them as Newport took a shock lead inside six minutes.

Alex Rodman sent over a regulation cross from the right flank and there was the unmarked Boden in plenty of space to nod past a helpless Martinez.

The 1,000 or so travelling Newport fans went crazy, but the rest of a sparsely-populated Molineux was stunned into silence.

The goal, far from waking Jackett's team up, seemed only to unnerv them further.

Doherty inexplicably dawdled across his own six-yard box. Conor Coady was again impressive in midfield and, just after he went in the referee's notebook, the 22-year-old forced Day into a full-stretch save.

Hillman hits his hat-trick for shock win

Wolverhampton Casuals 2 Dudley Sports 3

A Stuart Hillman hat-trick earned Dudley Sports a shock 3-2 West Midlands League Premier Division result when they grabbed an opening-day win at rivals Wolverhampton Casuals.

The scoring was opened when Hillman struck in only the second minute of the game after he had robbed the ball from Casuals' Ian Boswell.

Hillman fired the ball beyond the reach of the outstretched Liam Stanton from 25 yards to put the ball into the net and put himself and his team on the scoreboard.

Sports' Aaron Gordon was the first player to be shown a yellow card in the match for kicking the ball away after the referee had blown his whistle for a free-kick.

Casuals managed to dominate the play and deservedly brought the score level when Jon Huckfield headed home a Joe Davies corner.

But Sports regained the lead just before half-time when again it was Hillman who rifled a fierce shot past Stanton from wide on the left to go into the break on top.

However, Casuals soon got back on level terms with just two minutes of play gone in the second half.

This time it was Jack Corns who was the man on target, with his looping 35-yard shot leaving Sports keeper Aaron Collins very little chance of keeping the ball out of the net.

Casuals' Jay Holdcroft had his effort on goal ruled out for a foul before Hillman headed home an 80th-minute winner and sealed his hat-trick to give TD the victory.

Albion put striking duo up for offer

ALBION have effectively put Victor Anichebe and Brown Ideye up for sale as Tony Pulis looks to press ahead with his summer squad overhaul.

The Baggies boss admits the pair are available for transfer after the arrival of Rickie Lambert and new £12m record signing Salomon Rondon.

But the club face a potential financial hit if they want to offload one or both of the strikers to free up room on the Hawthorns wage bill.

"People will look at Victor and Brown and think they have to move on, but they have wanted to play more regular football anyway," said Pulis.

INJURIES BRING END TO MATCH

Halesowen Town 1 Tividale 1

HALESOWEN'S final pre-season friendly was abandoned nine minutes early with the scores level at 1-1.

The game was stopped after Tividale striker Joel Ayettey and Halesowen goalkeeper Dan Platt suffered serious injuries.

Referee Terry Holbrook took the decision to halt the game after Platt raced out of goal to meet a long ball and clashed heads with former Causeway United striker Ayettey, resulting in the home goalkeeper losing three teeth and Ayettey suffering a head cut and concussion.

Halesowen made several changes from their midweek defeat and included Kyle Morrison from Alvechurch in defence.

As play commenced, Craig Milligan's fourth minute free-kick earned a corner for Tividale before Tom Turner made a good save to turn Dean Waldron's 10th minute snapshot away for a Yeltz corner.

Platt collected Demetri Brown's header two minutes later in even exchanges, officiated in Holbrook's usual competent, no-nonsense style.

Blazed

There were few clear chances midway in the first half in the heat of the Grove although Isaac Cooper hit high after 22 minutes and Connor Collins then blazed high and wide from the right after Darius Darkin played the ball out.

The visitors gained the upper hand late in the first half and Platt was forced to juggle a tricky shot from the right by Ashley Jackson after 35 minutes.

In the 42nd minute but Chris Sterling ballooned the ball over the bar.

The Dale took a deserved lead just a minute before half-time when Demetri Brown beat the home defence down the right and cut the ball back for Jahmel Taylor to control and slam home from 12 yards.

The Yeltz were much livelier after the interval and equalised in the 48th minute when Collins converted a close-range header from Cooper's cross.

Elikem Amenku then headed a cross at goalkeeper Turner before the game was abandoned.

City hand out heavy defeat



Craig Gardner feels the full force of City's Vincent Kompany during the match

West Brom 0 Man City 3

ALBION'S season began with a heavy defeat as title hopefuls Manchester City turned on the style at The Hawthorns.

City were on Easy Street in the first half as they cruised into a 2-0 lead thanks to a fortunate goal from David Silva and a fine one from Yaya Toure.

And they added a third through captain Vincent Kompany after the break despite an improved showing from the Baggies, who had paraded record signing Salomon Rondon to the crowd before the game.

It was a chastening start to the campaign for

Tony Pulis's men, but less daunting challenges await after a tough opening month.

City made all of the early running with the Baggies struggling to retain possession.

And even before the opening goal, new signing James Chester had to make an important interception for the hosts to prevent David Silva getting the finishing touch to a Jesus Navas cross.

City maintained their pressure and it was rewarded on nine minutes, although the goal came with a sizeable chunk of good fortune.

Albion enjoyed a brief spell of pressure but they were soon back under the cosh and found themselves 2-0 down on 24 minutes.

★★★

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